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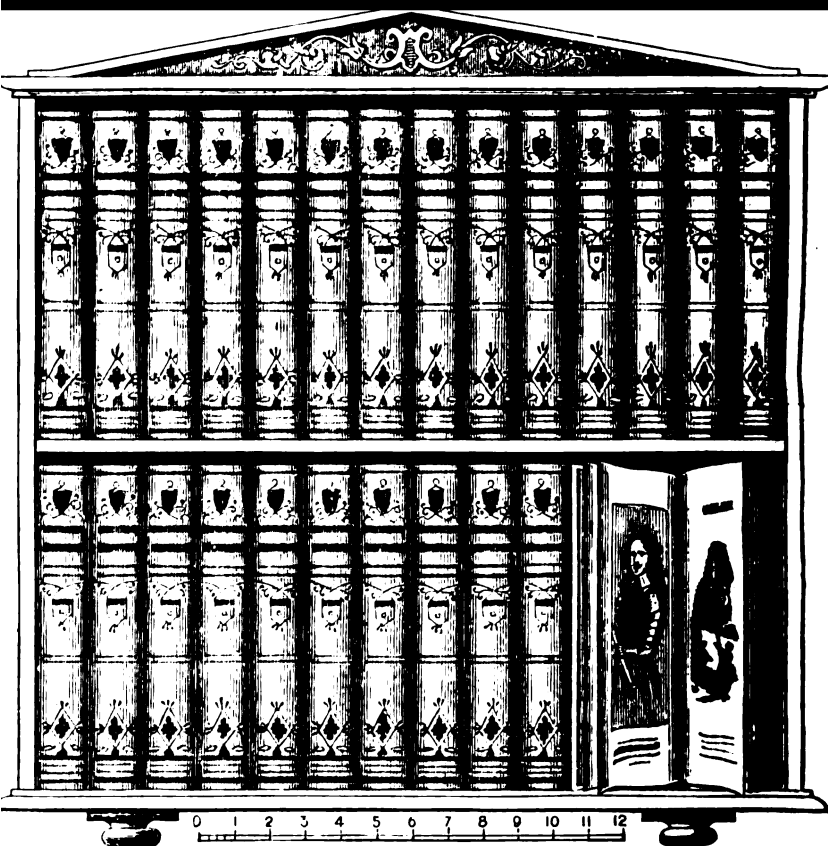
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# *Black's Guide to Nottinghamshire*

Alfred Edward Lawson Lowe, Adam  
and Charles Black (Firm)



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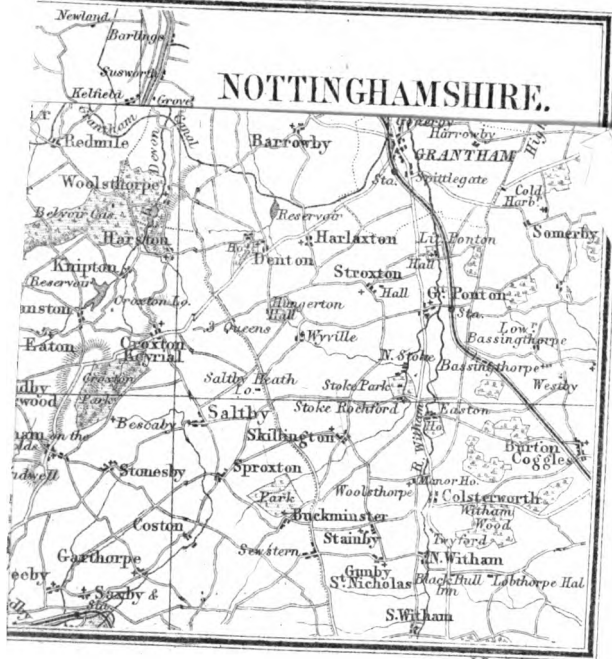
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Gough Adds Nottingham  
no 12

# NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.



J. Bartholomew, Edin.

BLACK'S  
GUIDE TO  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

EDITED BY  
CAPTAIN A. E. LAWSON LOWE



EDINBURGH  
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## PREFACE.

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SOME of our readers may perhaps think that an apology is due for presenting this Guide to the notice of the public. Nottinghamshire certainly cannot claim, like Derbyshire, a place amongst the most picturesque of our English counties, nor can it vie with Yorkshire for wild moorland scenery, noble monastic ruins, or remote antiquities, nor with Lincolnshire for its far-famed ecclesiastical edifices; yet, at the same time, Nottinghamshire can boast of a certain quiet beauty of its own, almost peculiar to itself, and for ancient woodland scenery probably stands unrivalled throughout the kingdom. The luxuriant vegetation along the valley of the Trent, and the fair parks and stately mansions of the Dukery add still further to the attractions of the county, and above all, we would remind our readers that Nottinghamshire is not only unusually rich in important historical associations, but likewise forms the scene of some of our most charming and

popular legendary stories. These, then, briefly are the attractions which Nottinghamshire offers to the tourist, for whose guidance this volume is offered. Unfortunately for those who desire to enter more fully into the past history of the county, Nottinghamshire possesses but one county-history, published by Dr Thoroton as far back as the year 1677, so that for nearly two centuries the history of the county remains unrecorded. A project has, however, recently been set on foot towards supplying this want, and it is hoped that ere long a very extensive and comprehensive history of the county may be completed.

In the compilation of this Guide, the Editor has availed himself of numerous works relating to Nottinghamshire, and desires specially to acknowledge the valuable general information he has obtained from Thoroton's "Antiquities of Nottinghamshire," as likewise, in a lesser degree, from "The Beauties of England and Wales," Bailey's "Annals of Nottinghamshire," White's "History and Gazetteer of Nottinghamshire," and Murray's "Handbook of Nottinghamshire." In the account of Nottingham and its more immediate neighbourhood, the Editor has likewise availed himself of the histories of that town by Deering and others, and also of Allen's "Handbook of Nottingham and its Environs," and in the accounts of towns of Newark, Retford, Worksop, Mansfield, Southwell, and Blythe he has derived considerable assistance from the writings of Dickenson, Shilton,

Piercy, Holland Eddison, Harrod, and Raine ; and for some portion of the description of Thoresby, Clumber, Welbeck, and other seats he is indebted to the fourth edition of White's "Handbook to Worksop and its Neighbourhood," whilst the account of Newstead has been likewise derived in a measure from Bailey's "Handbook to Newstead Abbey," Timb's "Abbeys, Castles, and Ancient Halls of England and Wales," and from the writings of the well-known American travellers, Washington Irving and Nathaniel Hawthorne, and also from a very interesting paper by Percival Skelton in the second volume of "Once-a-Week." To these, then, and to other works too numerous to mention, the Editor desires to express his obligations, and to these he refers those of his readers who seek to know more of this most interesting county. The Editor has further to acknowledge the brief notice on the climate of the county specially furnished by Edward Joseph Lowe, Esq., F.R.S., &c. &c., and also the short account of the various geological formations contributed by Hugh Lee Peyton Lowe, Esq.

As to the arrangement of the Guide, the Editor has adopted the plan of dividing the whole county into certain districts, embodying together in groups all the places of greater or less interest ; but for the benefit of those travellers whose time is limited, or for those who only desire to visit such places in Nottinghamshire as are more especially celebrated, the following route has been



arranged, which may readily be followed on reference to the index at the end of the volume :—

*First Day.*—Nottingham (ruins of the Castle ; St Mary's Church ; Arboretum ; Church Cemetery ; Lace and Hosiery manufactories, &c. &c.)

*Second Day.*—From Nottingham, by road, to Newstead Abbey, and from there by Hucknall Torkard (Byron's burial-place), and through Annesley Park (the home of " Mary Chaworth ") to Mansfield.

*Third Day.*—From Mansfield, by road, through a part of Sherwood Forest, to Rufford Abbey and Ollerton.

*Fourth Day.*—From Ollerton, by road, through the Hays of Birkland and Bilhagh, in Sherwood Forest, to Thoresby and Clumber ; and from there to Worksop.

*Fifth Day.*—Worksop (Priory Church and gate-house ; Manorhouse, &c.). By rail, to East Retford and Newark-upon-Trent.

*Sixth Day.*—Newark-upon-Trent (Church ; ruins of the castle ; Sconce-Hills, &c.). By rail, to Southwell (Collegiate Church ; ruins of the Archbishop's Palace, &c.). By rail, to Nottingham.

*Showing the distances of the Market Towns from each other, and from the Metropolis.*

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# GUIDE TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

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## GENERAL

### DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, which forms one of the most northern counties of the midland group, has been noticed by various writers to have a peculiarity in its geographical situation not possessed by any other county in the kingdom, namely, that of being bounded by four entire shires only on the four cardinal points, and without being cut or intersected by detached portions of other counties. These bordering shires are Yorkshire on the north, Lincolnshire on the east, Leicestershire on the south, and Derbyshire on the west, with which latter county Nottinghamshire was united under one High Sheriff until the year 1568. In shape the county approaches to an irregular oval, of which the major axis, from north to south, is about 50 miles in length, and the lesser, from east to west, about 25 miles; having a circuit of 145 miles, and containing an area of 822 square miles, with a population, according to the census of 1871, of 319,758 persons, showing an increase in population of 25,891 in ten years, and of 179,408 since 1801.

The county is partitioned into the six wapentakes or hundreds of Bassetlaw, Bingham, Broxtow, Newark, Rushcliffe, and Thurgarton; and for the purposes of Parliamentary representation into two divisions, called the Northern and Southern, each of which has returned two members since the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832. Nottinghamshire was formerly in the diocese of York, but was transferred to the diocese of Lincoln in 1839, with the exception of a small portion of the parish of Selston, which is included in the diocese of Lichfield, and a part of the parish of Blyth, which still remains in the diocese of York. The entire county is comprised in the archdeaconry of Nottingham, which is subdivided into the five deaneries of Nottingham, Bingham, Newark, Retford, and Southwell, each of which has, in recent times, been partitioned into smaller divisions.

Although Nottinghamshire lies quite out of the influence of those great ranges of high land which form the backbone of England, and possesses none of that bold mountainous scenery which characterises the neighbouring county of Derby; yet, with the exception of the valley of the Trent, which extends over a considerable area in the southern and south-eastern parts of the county, the vale of Belvoir, occupying a more limited district on the eastern side, and the extensive tracts of marshy lowlands in the extreme north of the county, the surface is irregular and undulating, and although seldom rising to any considerable altitude, is yet sufficiently broken to avoid the sameness resulting from a dead flat, and has in many parts a very beautiful diversity of hill and dale; whilst it possesses to perfection all the pleasant and picturesque character of a thoroughly English county, in which forests and rivers, uplands and fertile dales,

stately mansions, tiny hamlets, busy villages, and thriving manufacturing towns alternately present themselves.

The western portion of this county will be found to possess the most attractive features to the tourist, for here, amidst the most broken ground and varied scenery of which Nottinghamshire can boast, there still remain very considerable vestiges of the time-honoured forest of Sherwood, fraught with so many quaint traditions of bygone days; and here too is that pre-eminently aristocratic district, which has been called "the Dukery" from the unparalleled number of its ducal proprietors. Beyond the forest the more northern portion of the county is flat and unattractive, partaking to a great degree of that monotonous aspect which characterises the Fen country, of which, indeed, this may be said to constitute a part. But the scenery even here is not altogether devoid of interest, having at least one very striking natural feature, in the long range of bold promontories, which forms the southern boundary of that wide tract of level ground, known as the Cars. These heights, rising in abrupt cliffs towards the northward, and sinking gradually into the general line of the country on the south, present, from their peculiar uniformity, every appearance of having at some remote period formed the cliffs of an immense lake or estuary, stretching far into Yorkshire, and, as we may reasonably conjecture, communicating with the Humber, or the sea. Indeed, it is impossible for any person to contemplate the view across the Cars, from Gringley Hill, without drawing this conclusion, and it appears even more evident when this remarkable range of hills is viewed from the plain below. The country between Sherwood Forest and the Trent gradually becomes flatter and less picturesque as it recedes from the forest, but, at the same time, the

scenery is by no means devoid of beauty, especially in the more immediate vicinity of the river. The Trent, throughout the whole of its course through Nottinghamshire, is bordered by a fertile tract of rich meadow land, varying in breadth, many parts of which are bounded by high cliffs of red sandstone, fringed by woods, which may even be termed romantic from some points of view. South of the Trent the ground rises gradually, until at length it attains a considerable ridge of high lands, called the Wolds, running nearly parallel with the river, though at the distance of a few miles from its banks. Here the scenery again becomes somewhat wilder, and the pure keen air, sweeping across the uplands direct from the distant sea, adds no small zest to a ramble amidst the ancient villages which crown the Nottinghamshire Wolds. The country which stretches along the western border of the county from Nottingham beyond Mansfield possesses a peculiarly park-like aspect, now somewhat disfigured here and there by the recent extensive working of the coal-fields throughout this portion of Nottinghamshire. Regarding the county upon the whole, it is remarkable that, notwithstanding the very large proportion of the inhabitants employed in various branches of trade, it does not possess, in any part except in the immediate vicinity of the principal towns, that busy and unpicturesque appearance which usually characterises a manufacturing district. This peculiarity may probably be accounted for by the general nature of the occupation of the manufacturing population, which does not require the factory system to any great extent, and admits of their employments being carried on in their own homes.

The Sutton-in-Ashfield Hills, Holly Hill (near Arnold), that part of the Wolds near the little village

of Stanton-on-the-Wolds, the hills near Cuckney, Forest Hill (near Warsop), Hunger Hill (near Nottingham), and Gringley Hill (near East Retford), are amongst the highest elevations in the county, but none of them attain a greater altitude than 600 feet above the sea level.

Foremost amidst the streams by which the county is watered, is the Trent, quaintly described by old Drayton as the river—

“Which thirty doth import ; by which she thus divined,  
There should be found in her of fishes thirty kind ;  
And thirty abbeys great, in places fat and rank,  
Should in succeeding time be builded on her bank ;  
And thirty several streams, from many a sundry way,  
Unto her greatness should their watery tribute pay.”

This noble river, rising in the moorlands of Staffordshire, enters Nottinghamshire near its junction with the small rivers Erewash and Soar, and flowing past Clifton Grove and the meadows of Nottingham, takes a serpentine course in a north-easterly direction through richly cultivated plains and often betwixt bold swelling knolls and green feathered cliffs, as far as Kelham, within a mile of the town of Newark, where it bends more to the northward, and after reaching Dunham, forms the boundary of the county for some miles, and at length entering Lincolnshire, near West Stockwith, flows through that county, and finally, after a winding course of nearly 200 miles, empties itself into the Humber. The tide is perceptible up the Trent about as far as Littleborough, and its close confinement between the banks of the river produces that remarkable phenomenon called the Eagre or Hygra, particularly at spring tides, when the water rises on the surface of the river to the height of six or eight feet, and rushes up it with great violence, in an almost perpendicular wave from the estuary of the Humber to a considerable distance



above Gainsborough. The river is navigable for vessels of 200 tons burden up to Gainsborough bridge, and both above and below that point great numbers of small craft are employed in the trade to Hull, Nottingham, and many other important places. Amongst the minor rivers are the Erewash, a small stream, which rises near Kirkby Hardwick on the western side of the county, and for some considerable distance separates Nottinghamshire from Derbyshire, not forming, however, a regular boundary, but meandering first into one county and then into the other, and finally empties itself into the Trent above Attenborough; the Leen, which rises near Newstead, and after a course of only about thirteen miles, flows into the Trent below Nottingham; the Maun, the Meden, and the Rainworth Water, three small streams, all of which have their source on the western side of the county, and flow in a north-easterly direction through the richest part of Sherwood Forest, amidst some of the finest old woodland scenery in England, eventually uniting under the name of the Idle, and becoming a somewhat important navigable river, flowing into the Trent, towards the northern extremity of the county; the Devon, which rises in Leicestershire and entering Nottinghamshire near Staunton, empties itself into the Trent below Newark; and the Soar, also rising in Leicestershire, which unites its waters with the Trent near Thrumpton. Besides these may likewise be mentioned the Dover Beck, Cocker Beck, Greet, Smite, Wipling, Wollen, Ryton, Poulter, and Dean, together with many other streamlets of less importance. There are also several artificial canals, by which the water communication of this district is greatly facilitated. From Nottingham, the Grantham Canal connects the Trent with the river Witham, in Lincoln-

shire, sending off a branch to Bingham; and the two rivers are again connected further northward by a canal, called the Fosse Dyke, thus giving direct waterway along the Witham to the port of Boston and the sea beyond. The Cromford Canal, from which a branch leads into the Trent above the weir at Beeston, runs from Nottingham in a north-westerly direction, joining the Erewash Canal near Eastwood, affording a ready means of transit for a considerable portion of the mineral produce of the district. And there is also the Chesterfield Canal, which intersects the more northern part of the county, passing through East Retford and Worksop, and joining the Trent near West Stockwith.

The railway communication is principally supplied by the Midland Railway Company, whose main line from Derby to Nottingham, Newark, and Lincoln, follows the valley of the Trent the whole way through Nottinghamshire, sending off branches to the Erewash valley (which is mainly in Derbyshire); to Mansfield, by a direct line from Nottingham; and to Southwell, and so, by another route, through to Mansfield, where this branch joins a short line connecting that town with the line running northward along the Erewash valley. There is also an unopened branch line connecting the more southern portion of the Nottingham and Mansfield branch with the Erewash valley line, and another unopened line between Mansfield and Worksop; whilst a line from Nottingham to Melton Mowbray, crossing the Wolds in the southern part of the county, is also in course of construction. The Great Northern Railway runs lengthways through Nottinghamshire, from Bawtry to East Retford and Newark, on its way through Grantham to London, sending off from Grantham a branch to Nottingham,

passing through Bingham; and another branch of the Great Northern Railway, crossing the Midland line near Gedling, and running in a westerly direction out of the county, is now being made. The Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln Railway runs through the northern part of the county, crossing the Great Northern line near East Retford.

The geology of Nottinghamshire embraces the Lias, the New Red Sandstone, the Coal Measures, and the Magnesium Limestone, together with a deposit of alluvial gravel throughout the valleys of the Trent and Soar. South of the Trent there is a tract of keuper marls lying nearly parallel with the river, beyond which the Lias comes to the surface. Gypsum is extensively quarried out of the keuper marl formation, and manufactured into plaster of Paris near Newark-upon-Trent; and in the neighbourhood of East Bridgeford a very beautiful transparent gypsum is found, which is highly valued by lapidaries. The Lias district embraces the eastern confines of the county, and may be defined by a line running from Rempston, near the southern extremity of the county, following the eastern side of the valley of the Trent, passing through Bingham and Newark, and stretching to the borders of the county, not far from Gainsborough. Small quantities of bitumen and jet have recently been discovered towards the base of the Lias formation, in tunnelling for a new branch of the Midland Railway near Stanton-on-the-Wolds. North of the Trent is the Bunter Sandstone, on which Nottingham stands, and it is in this rock that the ancient caverns have been excavated for which the town is renowned, and from which it derives its name. About a mile below Nottingham there is an extended area of keuper, which for some

miles forms the northern boundary of the Trent valley. Proceeding up the valley of the Leen, on the western side we find the Coal Measures, which gradually increase in width, and stretch across the valley of the Erewash into Derbyshire. Further up the valley, commencing at Basford, there is a very extensive tract of Permian or Magnesium Limestone, which is largely quarried at Bulwell, Mansfield, Mansfield Woodhouse, and elsewhere, both for the manufacture of lime and for building purposes. A considerable portion of the population find employment in these quarries, of which those near Mansfield and Mansfield Woodhouse are celebrated as having supplied the stone from which the frontage of the Houses of Parliament, at Westminster, was built, as was also the terrace in Trafalgar Square, the Martyrs' Memorial at Oxford, some portion of Southwell Minster, and other important structures. On the eastern side of the valley of the Leen there is no material change in the Bunter Sandstone, which stretches from Nottingham beyond Mansfield, and for some distance farther northward. Considerable deposits of gravel are found in various parts of the county, particularly in the district of Sherwood Forest, where it is hardened in many places into a breccia or conglomerate. From Gringley-on-the-Hill to West Markham, in the more northern portion of the county, extends a bold and somewhat elevated chain of hills, composed chiefly of marl, lias, shale, and limestone; and beyond these hills lie the Cars, the surface of which is covered by black bog, essentially of the same character throughout, filled with the trunks of pine, oak, yew, and other trees, which have evidently stood very thick on the ground, and having fallen off at the base, leaving their roots *in situ*, are buried about a foot

deep, and in some instances much deeper. The Nottinghamshire coal-fields extend along the western side of the county, having seven workable seams; the uppermost being the "Top-hard" or "Barnsley" coal, and the lowest the "Kilburn" coal; whilst below these lie the comparatively worthless "Ganister-beds," which are found, on the Derbyshire side of the coal-field, resting upon the millstone-grit. During the past few years very many new pits have been sunk in the valley of the Leen and elsewhere, and recent investigations have proved that this coal-field is of far greater extent and importance than was formerly supposed. One notable feature of the Nottinghamshire coal-field may be mentioned, which is the disproving of the long-established popular theory that the Permian rests conformably with the Coal Measures, for at Shireoaks, near Worksop, no less than 1300 feet of Coal Measures had to be sunk through before the "Top-hard" coal was reached; whilst at Strelley, about twenty miles southward, the Magnesian Limestone is seen resting immediately upon the same seam.

The climate of Nottinghamshire is somewhat peculiar, for perhaps no portion of Great Britain experiences a greater range of temperature. High mountainous counties, and those bordering on the sea coast, cannot have a summer temperature so high nor a winter temperature so low as those which are situated farther inland, and whose surface is comparatively flat and unbroken; and as Nottinghamshire is sufficiently removed from the influence of the sea and of hilly districts, the range of temperature must necessarily be great. Between the years 1860 and 1870, the Nottinghamshire range of temperature was from  $-8^{\circ}$  to  $98^{\circ}$ , or no less than  $106^{\circ}$ . In extreme hot

weather, Oxford, Cambridge, and London approach nearly to the high temperature of this county, but no part of the kingdom equals that of Nottinghamshire. The rainfall is small in amount, owing partly to the fact that a minimum of rain occurs along the eastern coast of England, and a maximum along the west, and partly to the absence of high hills, which is an invariable cause of the diminution of the rainfall. The greatest annual rainfall, during the last few years, has been 40 inches, and the least 16 inches; the average being 25 inches or thereabouts. The popular notion in Nottinghamshire that showers hasten to and pass along the immediate vicinity of the Trent is not borne out by observation, and, indeed, is altogether fallacious. It will readily be conceived that the influence of such a river would be as nothing to the rain-clouds, and the seeming passage of the showers down the Trent is merely an effect of perspective when seen from the neighbouring hills. There can be no doubt, however, that the various geological formations have the effect of altering the climate somewhat in different parts of the county. We need not mention the prevailing wind, which is a phenomenon extending over a much larger tract of country than Nottinghamshire; nor the pressure of the atmosphere, which is merely the passage of waves of air, of different degrees of density, moving across a still wider area.

Nottinghamshire is perhaps better known as a manufacturing than an agricultural county, although a very considerable portion is entirely given up to farming. Throughout the fertile valley of the Trent, and along the banks of the Soar, there are rich pastures mainly devoted to dairy purposes; and the clay district in the more northern part of the county yields peculiarly fine crops of wheat, barley, beans, pease, and hay. On

the eastern side of the county the land is somewhat poor and clayey, but it has been very greatly improved, by a superior system of agriculture, during the last few years, and now produces very fair crops of cereals. But the greatest agricultural improvements have been effected in the permanently enclosed forest lands, the deep sandy soil of which has been made to yield large crops of every sort of grain, and potatoes are cultivated in this part of Nottinghamshire with great advantage. Hops were at one time a considerable article of produce throughout the clay district, particularly in the neighbourhood of Retford, Tuxford, and Ollerton, where they are still grown, though in much smaller quantities than formerly. Liquorice was likewise once cultivated near Worksop, but it was given up many years ago, the soil not being sufficiently deep to admit of the long juicy roots being grown to full perfection. Small quantities of weld, or woad (sometimes called the dyer's weed), are still grown in the north of the county, in the neighbourhood of Scrooby. Indeed, the soil possesses such a diversity, that it affords its farmers an opportunity of producing every species of grain and grass, and most kinds of plants and roots, with as much advantage as is afforded in any county in the kingdom. The market gardens in the vicinity of Nottingham are a very marked feature, and floriculture and horticulture are here carried on by amateur gardeners to the most surprising point of perfection.

The manufactures of the county consist chiefly of lace and hosiery, which give employment to thousands of the inhabitants in Nottingham, Radford, Basford, Sneinton, and Mansfield, and the surrounding villages. Stocking and other hosiery was once the most noted manufacture of the county, but of late years such great improvements have been made in bobbin net machines

that lace may now be considered as the leading article, and as the chief cause of the great increase in houses, shops, and factories, which has taken place in all the manufacturing towns and villages in the county during the last fifty years. There are in Nottinghamshire several silk and worsted mills, and about twenty-five cotton mills, the latter being mostly situated in and near Nottingham and Mansfield. There are also several sail-cloth manufactories, paper-mills at Retford and Epperstone, and potteries of coarse red earthenware at Sutton-in-Ashfield. Malting is a lucrative branch of trade at Nottingham, Newark, Mansfield, and Worksop, and the two former places are famous for the brewing of ale. Besides these, the lace and hosiery manufactures give employment to many iron and brass founders, machine-makers, dyers, bleachers, and others.

The early antiquities of Nottinghamshire are few and comparatively unimportant, and, indeed, the county cannot be said to boast of any British antiquities beyond the extensive camp on Brent's Hill, near Barton-in-Fabis, some few tumuli in various parts of the county, and the ancient caverns in the vicinity of Nottingham, many of which are believed by Stukeley and other antiquaries to have been the work of the aborigines of this island. The Roman remains are not of much greater importance, being limited to the Fosse-way, one of the principal Roman roads in England, which intersects the south-eastern portion of the county; some vestiges of the Roman stations,—*Vernometum*, near Willoughby-on-the-Wolds, *Margidunum*, near East Bridgeford, *Angelocum*, near Littleborough, and *Crocolana*, near Brough;—together with the remains of camps on Holly Hill, near Arnold, Bury Hill, near Mansfield, Pleasley, Mansfield Woodhouse, and elsewhere; tessellated



pavements, near Barton-in-Fabis; and several minor Roman roads, the principal of which is "Coventry Lane," which crosses the Trent, near Attenborough, where some traces of an ancient bridge have been found, and proceeds through the county in a north-westerly direction. Vestiges of a Saxon burial-place may be observed on a hill not far from Cotgrave, a few miles to the east-south-east of Nottingham. The ruined castle of Newark is the most important mediæval antiquity in Nottinghamshire, nearly the whole of the famous old castle of Nottingham having been swept away to make room for a structure of the seventeenth century. Of monastic ruins, Newstead is by far the most important, though the greater part of the conventual buildings have been converted to residential purposes. The ruins of Worksop Priory are the next in importance, a very considerable portion of the conventual church having been appropriated to the use of the parishioners at the dissolution of the monastery. Of the Priors of Mattersea, Beauvale, and Felley, there are but slight remains; but at Thurgarton the greater part of the Priory church has been preserved. At Welbeck and Rufford some portion of the old monastic buildings are incorporated with the more modern mansions; and at Blyth, a part of the Priory church has been spared from the general destruction; whilst at Lenton, where stood one of the largest and richest monastic establishments in the Midland counties, scarce a vestige remains to mark the site, and but little of the old monastery at Shelford is to be found. Amongst the churches, Southwell Minster—the mother-church of Nottinghamshire—stands pre-eminent, although the parish church of Newark is perhaps, upon the whole, the most beautiful specimen of ecclesiastical architecture within

the limits of the county. The parish church of St Mary, in the town of Nottingham, is a fine perpendicular structure, and the conventual churches at Worksop, Thurgarton, and Blyth, together with the parish churches of Bingham and East Retford, are all worthy of note; whilst the village churches of Hawton, Attenborough, Gedling, Gamston, and Norwell are likewise possessed of considerable interest. The most ancient sepulchral monuments are to be found at Flintham, Whatton, Staunton, Willoughby-on-the-Wolds, and in the Priory church at Worksop; and there are numerous fine altar tombs and brasses at Averham, Clifton, Wollaton, Strelley, Colwick, Shelford, Langar, East Markham, Holme Pierrepont, Radcliffe-upon-Soar, and elsewhere. Of old domestic mansions, King John's palace at Clipstone, in Sherwood Forest, and the curious old house at Kingshaugh, near Darlton, are probably the most ancient; whilst the ruins of the archbishops' palaces at Southwell and at Scrooby are the most interesting. Wollaton Hall is a noble example of Elizabethan architecture, and the old halls of Car Colston, Wiverton, Annesley, and Broxtow should also be specially noticed. Amongst the more modern mansions those at Thoresby, Serleby, Bestwood Park, Clumber, Kingston, and Kelham are decidedly the finest.

Since "the good old days" when the monarchs of England chased the wild deer through the glades of Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire has ranked amidst the finest hunting counties in the kingdom; and it now boasts of four excellent packs of fox-hounds (kennelled at Annesley, Rufford, Serleby, and Osberton), to sustain its ancient reputation. Foxes abound in nearly every part of the county; whilst hares,

pheasants, and partridges are also very numerous. Badgers are occasionally met with in the most secluded tracts of Sherwood Forest, and some few otters are still to be found along the banks of the Trent, particularly in the vicinity of Clifton Grove, a few miles above Nottingham. Rabbit warrens were formerly very numerous in the forest and other sandy districts; but those at Farnsfield, Clumber, Bestwood, Sansom Wood, and Haywood Oaks, were destroyed some years ago; and those at Clipston, Peasefield, Inkersall, Oxtun, Blidworth, Calverton, and Newstead have been greatly reduced, though rabbits are by no means scarce in any part of Nottinghamshire. The county can, however, claim no particular zoological feature except the old forest breed of sheep, which is now nearly worn out by various crosses with the Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Bakewell, and other breeds. Pigeons are very plentiful, especially in the northern part of the county, though during the last fifty years many of the old dovecots have been destroyed. Towards the close of the last century, it is said that no fewer than 8400 pigeons were sold on one market day at Tuxford. Within the domains of Newstead, Clumber, Welbeck, and Thoresby, and in the old woodlands of Bilhagh and Birkland—amongst those green forest glades, seldom trodden save by the foot of forester or sportsman,—the blackcock still preens his dusky wing and the woodpecker nods his crimson crest. Many species of sandpipers, wild ducks, plovers, and other birds haunt and breed in the reed and osier beds which here and there fringe the banks of the Trent, throughout its winding course through Nottinghamshire; and the lakes at Welbeck, Rufford, Clumber, Newstead, Wollaton, and elsewhere, attract numerous

wildfowl, amongst which the hooper or wild swan and many of the rarer varieties of the goose tribe may be mentioned. Sea-gulls frequently come up the Trent as high as Nottingham, and every summer the black tern may be observed lightly skimming the surface of the river. There are numerous trout-streams in various parts of the county, especially in the forest district, which afford abundant sport to the angler. Salmon was once plentiful in the Trent, though now much less so than formerly; but the beneficial effects of the recent Act of Parliament, protecting this fish, have already been observed in this river, and the number of salmon which come up annually from the sea increases steadily year by year. Sturgeon occasionally force their way up the river, but so rarely that the presence of one of these fish in the Trent above Nottingham is popularly believed to presage the death of some member of the knightly family of Clifton, whose mansion stands by the banks of the river.

Nottinghamshire has likewise attractions for the botanist, who will find several rare plants growing wild in various parts of the county, amongst which the following may be mentioned. The *Silene nutans* (or Nottingham catch-fly) grows on the castle-rock at Nottingham, on sandstone rocks at Sneinton and in Nottingham Park, and on similar rocks at Highfield Park, a few miles to the south-west of Nottingham. This curious plant is now becoming very scarce. On Oxton bogs, about five miles to the west of Southwell, specimens of the *Drosera rotundifolia* (or sun-dew) may be found in tolerable abundance; whilst some few specimens of the *Cyclamen hederæfolium* (or sow-bread) are occasionally to be met with in the woods near Langar, about five miles south-south-east of

Bingham. The *Tulipa sylvestris* (or tulip) grows plentifully in the Nottingham meadows, but is never known to flower unless removed to a garden. The *Viscum album* (or mistletoe), although common in the south of England, may be mentioned amongst the rarer plants of Nottinghamshire, being comparatively scarce in this part of the kingdom; it is found in the Birklands, in Sherwood Forest, and in the neighbourhood of Southwell, but is not common in any part of the county. The *Crocus vernus* (or spring crocus) flourishes in very unusual luxuriance in the Nottingham meadows, where it grows in such abundance that it has the appearance rather of having been sown for a crop than being of wild natural growth. Formerly many acres were completely covered with these beautiful flowers, but a great part of the meadows has now been built over, and year by year the dimensions of this famous crocus-bed become more and more curtailed. The *Schistostega pennata* (or luminous moss) grows in the caverns in the Church Cemetery, and in Robin Hood's Cave, near Nottingham, but in somewhat less profusion now than formerly. Amongst the rarer varieties of the fern tribe, the *Ceterach officinarum* has been found growing on the old park wall at Colwick, about two miles north-east of Nottingham; *Lastrea cristata* and *Lastrea Thelypteris* are both to be found on Oxton bogs; and the *Botrychium Lunaria* (or moonwort) grows at Edwinstowe, Stutton-upon-Trent, in the woods near Newstead Abbey, in a part of Sherwood Forest, near Mansfield, and elsewhere; whilst the *Osmunda regalis* (or royal fern) was once abundant on Bulwell Forest, a few miles from Nottingham, on Stapleford moor, near Newark, and in the neighbourhood of Mansfield, but the rapacity of fern-collectors, combined with

the extensive drainage of the land in the localities mentioned, has probably exterminated this noble fern in Nottinghamshire.

## SHERWOOD FOREST.

There is perhaps no part of England where ancient forest scenery may be seen to such advantage, or so nearly in its primeval condition, as "Merrie Sherwood," whilst, at the same time, there is probably no spot in the kingdom fraught with so many romantic legends of the olden time. True it is that the ancient glory of Sherwood has departed. Where the deer were wont to range free for miles, they are now herded within the park boundary; much of the venerable timber has fallen before the woodman's axe, and in many places the ancient woodlands have been supplanted by trimly enclosed copses, and fertile fields girt round with well-kept hedgerows. Robin Hood and his bold followers no longer wander

"—here and there  
Amongst the forests wild."

Yet there are still vast sylvan tracts—wild woods of gnarled oaks and graceful birches, with their bright and luxuriant undergrowth of golden gorse, rich purple heather, and tall branching ferns—little altered since the days of those daring outlaws, whose wild deeds have rendered Sherwood Forest famous. Thorton, in his "Antiquities of Nottinghamshire," tells us that Sherwood Forest is first mentioned under that name in the reign of Henry II., but it cannot reasonably be doubted that the greater part, if not the whole,

of that portion of Nottinghamshire lying on the northern side of the river Trent, was occupied from the most remote ages by a vast extent of wild forest land. The old Forest Book contained a copy of a charter, whereby King John, before his accession to the throne, granted to Matilda de Cauz and Ralph Fitz Stephen her husband, and to their heirs, all the liberties and free customs which any of her ancestors had enjoyed in the forest of Nottinghamshire, and by virtue of this grant the custody of Sherwood Forest descended to John de Birkin, and subsequently, through marriage, to the De Everingham family, but they having lost their right by forfeiture in the reign of Edward I., Sherwood Forest came to the Crown. Since that time it has generally come under the civil jurisdiction of the High Sheriff of the county, and its forest jurisdiction has been granted, from time to time, to various individuals as special marks of royal favour. Formerly there was a lord warden of Sherwood Forest, who held his appointment by letters patent from the Crown, a bow-bearer, and four verdurers, together with a steward and nine keepers; but all these offices were abolished about fifty years ago. Dr Thoroton, writing in Charles the Second's reign, greatly laments that "the pleasant and glorious condition of this noble forest is wonderfully declined," and adds, that so much timber had been felled to satisfy the numerous claims of the lord warden and his officers, "that there will not very shortly be wood enough left to cover the bilberries, which every summer were wont to be an extraordinary profit and pleasure to poor people, who gathered them and carried them all about the country to sell." The whole forest was, however, well stocked with red and fallow deer until about the middle of the last century, when the herds

were much diminished, and they were finally exterminated, except in the enclosed parks.

Sherwood Forest originally comprised nearly one-fifth of the entire county, extending southward from Worksop to Nottingham Park, being nearly twenty miles in length, and varying from five to seven miles in width; but upwards of two-thirds of the old forest lands have been enclosed, and a considerable portion has been brought into cultivation. According to a survey of Sherwood Forest made in 1609, it appears that the entire forest embraced 95,115 acres; of which, however, not less than 44,839 acres had even then been enclosed, and of the remainder, 9,486 acres were covered with thick woods, and 35,080 acres lay waste and unplanted; whilst 1,583 acres were included in Clipstone Park, 3,672 acres in Bestwood Park, 326 acres in Bulwell Wood, and 128 acres in Nottingham Park. From the year 1609 to 1796, about 2,280 acres in Arnold parish, 1,158 in Basford, 2,608 in Sutton-in-Ashfield, 1,941 in Kirkby-in-Ashfield, and 261 in Lenton and Radford were enclosed and cultivated, and since then many large portions of the forest in Blidworth, Gedling, Lambley, and other parishes have been enclosed; so that out of 95,115 acres contained within the ancient limits of the forest, upwards of 60,000 acres are now cultivated, whilst the remainder is occupied by woods, plantations, sheep-walks, and wastes. Still every variety of scenery presents itself, and many a tract of wild woodland has been preserved. The open heath, with all its picturesque accompaniments, may be traced throughout those bold wild sweeps of undulating land that lie between Bestwood Park and Mansfield, skirting the domain of Newstead Abbey, and stretching westward towards Oxtun and Farnsfield. Wild expanses of



common, overgrown with heather and fern, and backed by sylvan scenery of indescribable beauty, may be traversed between Mansfield and Ollerton; whilst the yet more varied scenery of the ancient forest, where the dense masses of foliage are only broken here and there by mossy glades and sparkling rivulets, may be found to perfection in the vicinity of Warsop and Carburton, skirting the five noble parks of Welbeck, Worksop, Thoresby, Clumber, and Rufford, and extending almost to the northern limits of the forest between Worksop and Retford. This wild landscape is finely contrasted on the eastern borders by the rich scenes of cultivation and enclosure extending from Haughton Park to Southwell, where in general the ground is sufficiently broken to add the picturesque to the beautiful. The late Major Hayman Rooke, a local antiquary, states that until the beginning of the last century, Sherwood Forest was full of trees, and that the whole country between Nottingham and Mansfield was so densely wooded that a man might journey from town to town on a bright midsummer's day without once seeing the sun! But most of this tract is now cleared, and there are comparatively few remains of forest save in the extensive districts known as the hays of Birkland and Bilhagh, which together form a vast open wood of large and venerable oaks, occasionally interspersed with other timber, but now comparatively free from underwood, except in one part, where some natural birch is growing. Clumber Park, however, contains the remains of two old woods, called the Clumber and Hardwick Woods; and there are some scattered portions of other old woodlands of smaller extent, consisting of Harlow Wood, Thieves' Wood, and other places in the neighbourhood of Mansfield; but these can boast of but little valuable

timber. Thorney Wood Chase, which occupies the southern division of Sherwood Forest, and of which the Earls of Chesterfield were the hereditary rangers, is now almost entirely enclosed and cultivated. Within the last century numerous very extensive plantations of oak, beech, larch, chestnut, and other forest trees, have been made in various parts of Sherwood Forest by the Dukes of Kingston, the Dukes of Portland, and other noblemen and gentlemen, so that, notwithstanding the inroads which have been made in the old forest, we may trust that the day is far distant when the green woods of Nottinghamshire shall be numbered amongst the things of the past.

Among all the distinguished characters whose names have been perpetuated in the legendary lore of this kingdom, there are none whose adventures are so widely known or who play a more conspicuous part, than the bold outlaw, with whom Sherwood Forest must ever be identified, Robin Hood. Nevertheless, there is a considerable amount of uncertainty as to the identity of the famous forester himself, and also as to the period at which he existed, notwithstanding the numerous attempts that have been made by various writers to elucidate the true story of his parentage and life. Thierry, in his "English History," speaks of him as the chief of a body of Saxons collected together in hostility to the Normans. Others consider that he was one of those daring men who resented the enclosure of the forests in the reign of Richard I., and who, persecuted by the officers of the Crown, banded themselves together, leading a lawless life in the recesses of the forest, killing the king's deer, and levying tribute from all wealthy travellers, but endearing themselves to the common people by aiding the

weak and oppressed; and relieving the wants of the poor. Others, again, maintain that he lived in the time of Henry III., and being an adherent of Simon de Montfort, the rebellious Earl of Leicester, retired into the forest after the disastrous battle of Evesham, and passed the remainder of his life as an outlaw; whilst others look upon him as little more than a mythical personage, conjured into existence as a peg whereupon to hang the national love of sylvan lore. Hunter, the learned historian of Yorkshire, was a firm believer in the existence of this doughty personage, and in his short but able treatise on Robin Hood he well-nigh puts the question beyond all dispute. His birth-place is stated in several old ballads to have been near Loxley, a little village not far from Uttoxeter, in Staffordshire; and his mother is said to have been sister to "a notable squire" living at Gamwell Hall, in Nottinghamshire, where Robin Hood is reputed to have spent a greater part of his youth; but no such place as Gamwell is now to be found in the county. Stukeley, in his "*Palæographia Britannica*," conjectures, however, that his true name was Robert Fitz Ooth or Oeth; that he was descended from a Norman chief of that name, who was Lord of Kyme in Lincolnshire; that his mother was a daughter of Payne Beauchamp and Roisia de Vere; and that through his grandmother he could prove his direct descent from Waltheof, the first Earl of Northumberland, Northampton, and Huntingdon, who was beheaded in 1073, and consequently, he may be supposed to have some claim to that title of Earl of Huntingdon which has so often been bestowed upon him. But whatever may have been the precise period at which he flourished, or whatever may have been his lineage, his memory is to this day proudly cherished in Nottinghamshire,

and many are the quaint traditions which, yet linger  
in the old forest of Sherwood—

“Of Robin Hood and Little John ;  
Of Scarlock, George à Green, and Much the miller’s son ;  
Of Tuck the merry friar, which many a sermon made  
In praise of Robin Hood, his outlaws, and their trade.”  
*Drayton.*

## THE TOWN OF NOTTINGHAM.

NOTTINGHAM, the capital of the county to which it gives its name, and the principal seat of the lace and hosiery manufactures, is an ancient and well-built borough town, with a population of 86,608 persons, occupying a picturesque and elevated situation upon a sandy rock, which rises in broken declivities on the northern side of the valley of the Trent. The approaches to the town on all sides are particularly striking, and perhaps no town in England appears under such a variety of aspects. The town has, however, scarcely any fine streets, and but few public buildings worthy of note. The hotels, too, are not such as might be expected in so large and important a place; the George the Fourth is the best, and the Flying Horse and the Maypole are both fairly good. The pasture and meadow lands surrounding the town were formerly subject by ancient grant to the depasturage of the burgesses, and could not be built upon, which prevented the extension of the town itself, and caused numerous populous outlying suburbs to spring into existence; but a special Act of Parliament having been obtained in 1845, these lands were enclosed, and the greater portion is now covered with buildings. During the last few years many of the narrow, incommodious old streets have been widened, new streets formed, and old tenements rebuilt; and numerous other extensive alterations and improvements, under the auspices of the corporation,

are in contemplation, which promise to tend greatly not only to the beauty of the town, but also to the convenience of the inhabitants. The Midland and Great Northern Railway Companies both have stations here, affording direct communication to all parts of the kingdom. The Midland station was first opened in 1848, and the Great Northern in 1857. Nottingham is undeniably one of the most ancient towns in the kingdom, though its origin is shrouded in the impenetrable gloom which is cast over the early ages of the aborigines of Britain. John Rouse, a learned monk of Warwick, who wrote in the time of Henry VII., states that "King Ebrancus builded Nottingham on a dolorous hill, so called from the grief of the Britons, of whom King Humbert made there a very great slaughter in the reign of Albanactus," and he places the antiquity of Nottingham so high as 980 years before the birth of Christ; but it need hardly be added that he adduces no evidence in support of this assertion, and, indeed, his statement is unworthy of comment. Other equally unreliable writers would have us to believe that a British king, whose name was Coilus, was buried here about 1,000 years before Christ; whilst others, with more appearance of probability, affirm that Nottingham was one of the four cities which Lucius, the first Christian monarch of Britain, caused to be founded. The position of the town, placed as it is upon a hill of New Red Sandstone formation, and with a southern aspect near the banks of a river, would be a great inducement to a rude people to form a settlement, and certainly tends to prove the remote antiquity of the town. The soft and easily excavated sandstone rock was utilised to form habitations, and, from this circumstance, the appellation of *Snodengaham* or *Snotingeham* (imply-

ing a dwelling among the rocks) was given to the place by the Saxon invaders. Deering states that the whole rock upon which the town stands is so hollowed out into caves and subterraneous passages, that it is almost a question whether the solid contents of what is erected on the top would fill up the cavities under ground. Some Roman remains have been found within the limits of the borough, but it is doubtful whether Nottingham was ever a Roman station of any importance. From the period of the Saxon Heptarchy, the town seems to have steadily increased in consequence. In 868, the Danes, who had invaded the kingdom of Mercia, entrenched themselves in Nottingham during the winter, and were besieged by Burdred, king of Mercia. In 910, Edward the Elder caused the town to be encircled with a strong wall, and about the same time a bridge of some material was built over the river Trent. In the time of Edward the Confessor, about 1040, there were only 192 men in Nottingham, and this number was reduced, after the ravages of William the Conqueror, to 136, although there were then 217 houses within the walls of the town. At the time of the Norman invasion Nottingham was reckoned amongst the first twenty places of importance in England, and it retains nearly the same rank at the present day. Stowe relates that the town was sacked and burned, and the inhabitants massacred, in 1140, by Robert, Earl of Gloucester; and that, thirteen years later, it experienced a similar misfortune at the hands of William, Earl of Ferrers. After this latter calamity Nottingham lay for some time in ashes; but as soon as Henry II. was peaceably settled on the throne, he gave the unfortunate inhabitants great encouragement in rebuilding it, granting them a new

charter, by which he allowed them the continued use of all those free customs that they had enjoyed in the time of Henry I.; and it would appear that the town had possessed a corporation for some years prior to the date of this charter. The town was originally governed by a bailiff, but in 1280, Edward I. granted the townsmen of Nottingham the privilege of choosing annually a mayor and two bailiffs, according to the custom of the two boroughs—one division of the town being then called the French and the other the English borough, a distinction which was retained for many years. In 1448, Henry VI. constituted the town of Nottingham a county in itself, changed the bailiffs into sheriffs, and empowered the burgesses to choose seven aldermen, who should all be justices of the peace, and one of whom should be mayor. At the same time, he granted permission to the aldermen to wear scarlet gowns trimmed with fur, similar to those worn by the aldermen of the city of London. This privilege is exercised to this day by the Mayor of Nottingham, and it is possible that it will ere long be revived by the aldermen. In 1835, the constitution and government of the corporation was altered, and the number of aldermen was increased from seven to fourteen, but they became no longer justices of the peace in virtue of their office; and from this time only one sheriff was appointed, instead of two as before. Since the time of Edward I. Nottingham has sent two representatives to Parliament; and it is worthy of note that Parliaments were actually held in the town on several occasions.

The Castle, which crowns a precipitous rock rising abruptly from the valley towards the southern extremity of the town, will probably first attract the attention of



the tourist. Unfortunately little remains of that early fortalice which played so prominent a part in the Middle Ages; for William Cavendish, first Duke of Newcastle, the hero of the civil wars, demolished the greater part of the ancient castle, in the reign of Charles II., to make room for the square palatial structure we now see; and save here and there a fragment of a crumbling wall or ruined tower, some traces of the grass-grown moat, and the venerable gate-house, there is nothing left to remind us of those striking incidents with which old Nottingham Castle is associated. At what period a castle was first erected upon this spot must ever remain a matter of doubt, but we are told that as early as the ninth century the Danes possessed themselves of an old tower here, which was possibly reconstructed by them. There is no mention of a castle at Nottingham in the Domesday Book, nevertheless, from the evidence of a Cottonian manuscript, it is clear that shortly after the Norman invasion there was a castle of some description here, held by William de Peverel, a powerful Norman baron, supposed to have been a natural son of the Conqueror himself. His grandson, William de Peverel, being attainted of high treason, about the middle of the twelfth century, Nottingham Castle reverted to Henry II., and continued in the possession of the Crown for nearly five centuries, during which time it was very frequently the abode of royalty. In 1172, Henry II. held a Parliament within the walls of the castle; and about the same time he materially strengthened its defences, and rebuilt the wall round the town. In 1194, his son and successor, Richard Cœur de Lion, returning from his captivity, besieged the castle, then held by his rebellious brother John, and obtaining possession of it he summoned a Parliament here for the

trial of the rebels. King John was frequently at Nottingham Castle, and it was here, in 1212, upon receiving intelligence of the insurrection in Wales, that he ordered the twenty-four Welsh hostages to be cruelly executed. Here Roger Mortimer, the profligate Earl of March, the paramour of Queen Isabella and the governor of the kingdom during the minority of Edward III., held his court, and here he was surprised and taken prisoner by the youthful monarch in 1330. David II., king of Scotland, who was brought to Nottingham a prisoner in 1346, was confined for several years in the dungeons beneath the castle. In 1376, Sir Peter de la Marc, Speaker of the House of Commons, was committed prisoner to Nottingham Castle by Edward III. for having made Alice Pierce, the king's mistress, an object of his reproach; and, in 1392, Richard II. sent the Lord Mayor and the sheriffs of London to Nottingham, and imprisoned them in the castle, because the city had refused to lend the king £1,000. The same monarch likewise removed the Court of Chancery to Nottingham, and in 1397 he summoned the peers of the realm to meet him at Nottingham Castle. Edward IV., from the good-will he bore to Nottingham, very much enlarged the castle by the addition of several strong towers, one of which was subsequently quaintly described by Leland as "the most beautifullest and gallant building for lodging." Richard III. held his court here, and made some additions to the castle, and it was here that he mustered his forces before marching to Bosworth field in 1485. During the time of the Tudors the castle was suffered to fall into dilapidation. Henry VII. gave the custody of the castle to Sir John Byron of Colwick, an ancestor of the poet, and James I. granted the same to Francis, sixth

Earl of Rutland; but the castle was in so ruinous a condition, that the latter monarch was compelled to lodge in Thurland Hall, an old mansion in the town, during the six visits which he paid to Nottingham. However, the castle again became a place of importance in the wars between Charles I. and his Parliament, and it was here, in 1642, that the unfortunate King Charles resolved formally to call his subjects to arms by erecting his royal standard, which was first displayed upon the highest turret of the castle, and three days afterwards in a meadow near the castle, the site of which is still called "Standard Hill." According to Clarendon, "the standard was erected about six of the clock of a very stormy and tempestuous day. The king himself, with a small train, rode to the top of the Castle Hill; Varney, the knight marshal, who was standard-bearer, carrying the standard, which was then erected on that place, with little other ceremony than the sound of trumpet and drums. Melancholy men observed many ill presages about that time. The standard was blown down the same night that it had been set up, by a very strong and unruly wind, and could not be fixed again for a day or two, till the tempest was allayed." The county of Nottingham warmly responded to the king's appeal, and the loyal old families of the neighbourhood furnished many a gallant soldier for his army; but the townsmen were more inclined to favour his enemies, so that the castle was subsequently garrisoned for the Parliament under Colonel John Hutchinson, of Owthorpe, who defended the stout old fortress with great devotion and gallantry. At the conclusion of the civil wars Cromwell dismantled the castle, which was granted after the Restoration to the celebrated George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, who had urged

a claim to it in right of his mother. He sold it to William Cavendish, first Duke of Newcastle, who removed the greater part of the battered ruins, and, in 1674, when he was in the eighty-third year of his age, this nobleman commenced the erection of a noble Renaissance mansion, which was completed by his son Henry, the second Duke, in 1679, at the very trifling expense, as it would now be thought, of £14,000. Nottingham Castle, together with vast estates in Nottinghamshire and other counties, subsequently passed, by marriage, through the noble families of Holles and Pelham, into the hands of Thomas Pelham Holles, fifth Earl of Clare, who was created Duke of Newcastle in 1756, with special remainder to his nephew, Henry Pelham Clinton, ninth Earl of Lincoln, who eventually succeeded to the dukedom, and from whom the castle has descended to the present Duke of Newcastle. The ancient gatehouse or barbican, in which may still be seen the aperture through which the portcullis was lowered, is the most perfect vestige of the old castle now remaining, but it has unfortunately not only been injudiciously repaired with old brick-work, but sorely disfigured by the recent insertion of several tasteless and incongruous windows, and still more so by the addition of a nondescript stone structure, equally pretentious and unsightly, which serves as an entrance-lodge to the park. Southward of the gatehouse some remains of three bastions are still standing, and some other traces of old walls and a fragment of what is believed to have been Edward the Fourth's tower, may also be seen. The raised roadway, leading to the barbican, likewise remains, being supported on two strong arches of masonry, one of which is boldly ribbed, and between the

smaller arch and the gateway, the narrow space over which the drawbridge fell may be noticed from beneath. Relative to the more modern castle, which is said to have been built from the designs of one March, a Lincolnshire man, and which does not occupy above one-third of the space covered by the edifice which it superseded, a local architect remarks, "The eastern, or main façade, with its order of Corinthian architecture, its engaged columns, its pedimented windows, projecting balconies, and rusticated basement, is bold and effective; but the little square lights of the upper story, with their Flemish-looking scroll-shaped architraves, encroaching upon the space usually occupied by the entablature, though picturesque, would not, I imagine, be approved of by those who strictly adhere to classical types. There is, moreover, a preponderance of horizontal lines from the basement to the parapet, which does not harmonise with the precipitous rock below, and that might have been remedied without violating the principles of Italian architecture." The principal front is surmounted by the armorial bearings of the first Dukes of Newcastle, whilst above the principal entrance is the mutilated trunk of an equestrian statue of the founder of the castle, which was wantonly demolished by an infuriated band of rioters, who burned down the castle in 1831, because its then owner, the third Duke of Newcastle, of the present line, had distinguished himself by his opposition to the Reform Bill. The duke sued the Hundred of Broxtow, in which the castle is situated, and obtained the sum of £21,000 as compensation; but the castle was never rebuilt, and remains to this day a mere roofless shell and ruin, gutted and blackened by fire, with its massive walls cracked and fissured. For a consider-

able time before the conflagration, the castle had not been occupied by its noble owners, but had generally been inhabited by private families, though for two years previous to its destruction it had been untenanted. The apartments were enriched with some finely carved panelling, and contained a few old paintings, and the dining-room was hung with a splendid piece of tapestry, which tradition says was the work of Queen Anne, who occupied the castle for some time in 1688, before her accession to the throne. A vast quantity of cedar was used in the erection of the castle, and the perfume occasioned by the burning of this choice wood was distinctly perceptible, during the night of the fire, at a very considerable distance from the spot. The terrace-walk in front of the castle commands a fine prospect of the surrounding country, stretching far along the valley of the Trent, and across the neighbouring uplands.

Before quitting the castle the tourist should not fail to visit "Mortimer's Hole," a singular excavation, descending through the sandstone rock nearly to the level of the little river Leen, whose waters wash the base of the castle rock. The passage is lighted at intervals by openings in the face of the cliff, and still retains the marks of gates and blockades with which it was defended. Communicating with "Mortimer's Hole," and leading directly into the keep or principal tower of the old castle, there was formerly a secret passage, through which Edward III., accompanied by a small band of trusty attendants, headed by Sir William de Eland, entered the castle, in 1330, and captured Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, who was subsequently executed on Tower Hill "for betraying his country to the Scots for money, and for other mischiefs out of an extravagant and vast imagination designed by him."

The castle is now the headquarters of the First Nottinghamshire or Robin Hood Rifle Volunteers, whose drill-hall, an incongruous-looking structure, stands near to the ancient gatehouse. The Park, which adjoins the castle, is also the property of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, and contains about 129 acres of land. Until about the year 1750 it was well stocked with deer, and contained many fine old trees, but the deer were destroyed and the timber felled, and the park was for many years let to the people of Nottingham for their cattle to graze in; however, eventually it was portioned out into building allotments, and the greater part is now built over.

St Mary's Church is the largest as well as the principal of the three parish churches of Nottingham, being the one resorted to by Her Majesty's judges of assize, and by the corporation upon all state occasions. The plan is cruciform, and the entire fabric is of a comparatively late date. Portions of Norman pillar capitals have been found during the reparation of the present structure, but the whole is now of the Perpendicular style; the nave and transepts dating from the last half of the fourteenth century, whilst the chancel, of a far poorer character, is said to have been rebuilt during Elizabeth's reign. The broad and lofty pinnacled tower, which rises from the intersection of the transepts, and contains a peal of ten melodious bells, is undoubtedly the most striking feature of the church, and from its elevated situation forms one of the most prominent objects in nearly every part of the town. On the south side of the church, which was refaced in 1761, is a richly decorated porch, having a stone roof and numerous little buttresses, which, although apparently of a rather earlier period than the main fabric, appears to have

been an addition to it, and the fact certainly strengthens the tradition that this porch originally belonged to the neighbouring Priory of Lenton, and was removed to the position it now occupies after the dissolution of that monastery in the time of Henry VIII. The whole of the west end of the nave was rebuilt in 1726, when the Italian style was in high favour, so that an urn formed the gable-finial, and obelisks served as pinnacles on either side below. This outrage on good taste was, however, remedied by the substitution of the present congruous façade at a later period. The interior of the church measures 216 feet from east to west, and 97 feet from north to south in the transepts; the width of the nave and side aisles being 67 feet, whilst that of the chancel is 29 feet. Leland, who visited the church in 1540, describes it as being "excellente, newe, and unyforme yn worke, and so manie faire windows yn itt y<sup>t</sup> no artificer can imagine to set more;" and, at the present day, the number and unusually large dimensions of the windows, with the smallest possible amount of walling between them, at once arrest the attention of the visitor; and, indeed, the lights of the long clerestory range are so closely set together, as almost to give the idea of an unbroken line of fenestration. The old wooden roof is of good ornamental design, and there is a fine piece of groining at the intersection of the nave and transepts. At one time this church was sadly encumbered with galleries, some of which appear to have been erected as early as 1646, when the corporation granted a sum of money for the purpose, and ordered that wood should be cut down in the coppice near the town "to form lofts, or galleries, in Saint Mary's Church;" but these have been swept away, and a very consider-



able sum of money has already been expended upon the restoration of the fabric, although much still remains to be done. The chancel has been carefully restored by Sir Gilbert Scott, and the ancient carved oak stalls, which were removed from the church some few years ago, have been replaced with others of a similar design, and an elaborately carved bishop's throne has been added. A magnificent new organ has likewise been placed in the chancel, and several of the windows have been enriched with good modern stained glass. The great east window is by *Hardman*, and was erected by public subscription, at a cost of £1000, as a memorial of the late Prince Consort. The chancel is further adorned by a fine painting of the Virgin and Child, by *Fra Bartolomeo*, presented to the church in 1839 by the late Thomas Wright, Esq., of Upton Hall; and, built into the north wall, there is a very curious old sculptured tablet, well worthy of notice, which portrays a pope, attended by two cardinals, in the act of consecrating a bishop. The great window of the south transept has recently been filled with stained glass, in memory of Thomas Smith of Gaddesby, in Leicestershire (the ancestor of the opulent Nottinghamshire family of that name), who died in 1699; whilst the principal window of the north transept has likewise been partially filled with stained glass. Within the walls of this church are several old monuments worthy of note. The north transept originally constituted a separate chapel, dedicated to All Saints, which was probably founded by some member of an ancient family named Plumptre, long seated in this town, to whom the transept was confirmed by the Archbishop of York "for the purposes of prayer and burial" so late as the year 1633; and here, beneath an enriched

canopy, is an altar-tomb sustaining a mutilated recumbent effigy, doubtless representing one of the Plumptres; and round the walls of the transept are several more modern memorials of the same family. The south transept also constituted a separate chapel, founded in honour of the Virgin Mary, by Thomas Willoughby, a wealthy alderman of Nottingham, who lived early in the sixteenth century, and here too, beneath an arched canopy of somewhat less elaborate design, lies the effigy of a civilian, traditionally reputed to represent some member of the ancient family of Radcliffe. In this transept lie interred the remains of the first and second Earls of Clare, the former of whom died in 1637, and the latter in 1665. A ponderous tomb of black and white marble, surmounted by a huge urn, flanked by obelisks, was erected over their grave, but of this only the marble slab bearing the inscription and their armorial bearings now remains. Chambre, fifth Earl of Meath, who married the only daughter and heiress of the last Viscount Chaworth, of Annesley, and who died in 1715, lies buried in the chancel, together with his daughter, Lady Mary Brabazon, who died in 1737, but the small mural monument which was erected to their memory has been removed to the north aisle. Besides the transeptal chapels, there were in Romish times at least two other chantry chapels in this church, one of which was dedicated to St James, and the other was founded in the fourteenth century by a Nottingham merchant, Amyas by name. The font is a panelled Perpendicular one, of the same date as the nave in which it stands. Near to it are suspended the tattered colours of the Fifty-Ninth or Second Nottinghamshire Regiment of Foot, which were deposited in the church a few years ago.

St Peter's Church, traditionally reputed to have once been the chief parish church of Nottingham, stands in the lower part of the town, and is a large Perpendicular structure with a lofty tower and spire, probably dating from about the time of Henry V. This church sustained considerable damage in the civil wars when it was shelled by the Parliamentary garrison at the castle to dislodge a party of Royalists who had taken possession of it; and in more recent times it has been sorely disfigured by various modern alterations. The steeple contains a melodious peal of eight bells, the seventh of which was given, in 1544, by Margery Dubbeseay, a washer-woman, who also bequeathed to the sexton of this parish the annual sum of twenty shillings, for the ringing of it every morning at four o'clock to rouse the washer-women of the town to their daily labour. The curfew is likewise still rung here. The interior of the church is encumbered by several large galleries and high square pews, and the open roof of the chancel is concealed by a low flat plaster ceiling, which, until it was altered a few years ago, entirely concealed the chancel arch; but the nave yet retains a fine old timber roof of the fifteenth century, the bosses of which are adorned with the arms of the Strelley family, by whom the roof appears to have been given. The chancel has a good altar-piece, by *Barber*, a local artist of repute, representing Christ's agony in the garden. Amongst the numerous monuments with which the walls of the church are crowded may be noticed two mural tablets at the east end of the chancel to Margaret, first wife of John Locko, Gent., 1633, and to Jane, second wife of the same gentleman, 1639; a fine monument, also in the chancel, exhibiting some well-executed sculpture, in

memory of Charlotte Elizabeth, third daughter of Robert, first Lord Carrington, and wife of Alan Hyde, second Lord Gardner, 1811; a curious funeral achievement, in the south aisle, bearing the arms of William, son of Hugh Cressy, one of His Majesty's judges of King's Bench in Ireland, 1645; several handsome tablets, in the same aisle, to Benjamin Rickards, Gent., 1675; Alderman John Rickards, 1703; Alderman Thomas Trigge, 1704; and others; and a plain slab inscribed to Mr William Ayscough, who died in 1719, and who first introduced the art of printing into Nottingham. The Spiritual Court is held in the south aisle of this church; and until the demolition of chantries and guilds, in the reign of Henry VIII., there were in this church the chantry chapels of St Mary and All Saints; the former being in the south, and the latter in the north aisle; and there was also a guild, or fraternity of St George, the date of which is carried back to the year 1440.

St Nicholas' Church, the smallest of the three parochial churches of the town, was battered down and entirely destroyed in the civil wars, in 1647, owing to its proximity to the castle; for the Cavaliers, by climbing into the steeple, were enabled to open so effective a fire upon their enemies within the castle, that the Roundheads could not stand to the guns without wool-packs being placed before them, nor could they pass from one gate to another, nor relieve the guards, without the extreme hazard of being shot, so that to defend themselves the Roundheads set fire to the church, threw down the steeple, and laid the whole fabric in ruins. Deering tells us that, after its demolition, "the materials of the church were converted to private uses, the boxes in the kitchen of a certain inn were made of some of the pews; and the

bells were, by order of Colonel Hutchinson (who was governor of the castle for the Parliamentarians), removed to Owthorpe, his patrimonial residence." The church was, however, rebuilt of red brick with a plain square tower, in 1671, and was one of the first churches erected in this kingdom after the Restoration. It was enlarged in 1756, and again in 1783. Within its walls are numerous monuments, all of comparatively modern date, and in the churchyard may be found a headstone inscribed with some quaint verses commemorative of Tom Booth, a noted deer-stealer, who, after narrowly escaping the gallows on more than one occasion, died in 1752, at the ripe old age of 75.

There are also fourteen district churches in Nottingham, all of which have been erected within the present century. All Saints' Church, the finest of these, is situated near the Arboretum, and was built in 1863, through the munificence of Mr William Windley, a wealthy silk manufacturer. This church is in the Early Decorated style, and has a fine tower and broach-spire, containing a peal of eight bells. It contains a fine chancel-arch, with marble voussoirs, and there is a spacious appearance about the whole structure which commands respect; although the absence of a plinth or base mouldings externally is to be regretted, and the mouldings throughout would have been better had a stricter adherence to old types been observed.

The Roman Catholic Cathedral Church of St Barnabas, considered to be one of Pugin's best works, is the only other ecclesiastical edifice in Nottingham worthy of note. The first stone of this imposing structure was laid by the late Cardinal Wiseman in 1842, and the whole was completed in 1844. In plan it is

cruciform, having a fine tower and spire springing from the intersection of the transepts; the style of architecture being Early English. The entire church measures 190 feet from east to west, and 83 feet from north to south, in the transepts, whilst the spire is 164 feet in height. The general appearance of the exterior is plain, and a severe simplicity characterises the whole. The interior decorations are especially good; every window being filled with stained glass, those of the nave exhibiting the armorial bearings of the chief founder and his ancestors, together with the arms of the Roman Catholic bishops of the diocese and others, and the following inscription runs below them:—"Good Christian people, of your charity pray for the good estate of John, Earl of Shrewsbury, the chief benefactor to the building of this church, dedicated in honour of St Barnabas." The nave contains a well-carved pulpit of good design, and is partitioned from the choir by a fine screen of open work, surmounted by a lofty rood, flanked by figures of the Virgin Mary and St John the Evangelist. The high altar is composed of a single slab, resting upon six piers of Petworth marble. Beyond the high altar is the Lady Chapel, on the north side of which is St Alkmund's Chapel, and on the south side is the Chapel of St Thomas of Canterbury and the Venerable Bede. On the south side of the choir is the splendid Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, the most richly decorated portion of the church, the roof of which is supported on very beautiful corbels, representing angels in the attitude of prayer. There is another chapel, dedicated to St Peter, in the crypt beneath the choir, which is set apart for the celebration of masses for the dead. In the immediate vicinity of the church is a large Presbytery, and

there is also a Nunnery, occupied by Sisters of Charity. Before the Reformation there were numerous monastic establishments in Nottingham, the principal of which was a house of Carmelite friars, commonly known as the "White Friary," of which some remains are yet to be found amongst the buildings which occupy the space between St James' Street and Friar Lane, on the southern side of the great market-place. There were also—a house of mendicant friars of the order of St Francis, called the "Grey Friary," standing near the Broad Marsh in the lower part of the town; an hospital dedicated to St Leonard, founded in the early part of the thirteenth century for the reception of lepers; a fraternity of St Sepulchre; a college of secular priests in the castle; a cell for four monks in the chapel of St Mary, in the rock beneath the castle; and an hospital belonging to the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, which stood without the ancient walls of the town, on the site now occupied by the town gaol. Of dissenting churches the largest is that in Broad Street, belonging to the Wesleyans, which was built in 1838, and is calculated to accommodate a congregation of 1,750 persons. The Independent meeting-house in Castle Gate was originally erected in 1689, but was entirely rebuilt in the Lombardo-Venetian style in 1863, and is now decidedly the finest dissenting place of worship in the town. The Unitarian meeting-house on the High Pavement, formerly belonging to the Presbyterians, dates from the time of William and Mary, having been erected soon after the passing of the Toleration Act; previous to which its congregation suffered much persecution, and were compelled to assemble secretly in a vault under a house at the top of Drury Hill.

The great market-place, one of the most characteristic features of the town, and the largest in England, occupies a triangular area of nearly six acres, terminated at one end by the Exchange Hall, a large and handsome edifice, built by the corporation in 1724, at a cost of £2,400, almost entirely surmounted by well-built houses, resting upon wooden colonnades, beneath which are the principal shops of the town. Leland, writing in 1540, says "Nottingham is booth a large toun and welle buildid for tymber and plaster, and standith on a clyninge hille. The market-place and streate both for the building on the side of it, for the very great widenes of the streat, and the clene paving of it, is the most fairest without exception of al Englande." In 1654, Evelyn visited the town, and specially mentions the "ample market-place" in his diary; he does not add, however, that it was then only an unpaved miry space, divided down the middle by a ruinous wall (built by the Normans to divide the Saxon and Norman boroughs), partly occupied by open saw-pits, and having a large horse-pond in the centre, with rows of old elm trees down one side, beneath the boughs of which the pillory, stocks, and ducking-stool occupied prominent positions; yet such, indeed, was the condition of the famous market-place of Nottingham in the middle of the seventeenth century. Markets are held here every Wednesday and Saturday, and there are several important fairs throughout the year. No vestiges of the ancient town walls and gates are to be seen; and the old market-crosses, of which two stood in the market-place and three in other parts of the town, have all been destroyed. A large and handsome modern cross in the style of the fourteenth century was, however, erected in 1866, at a cost of upwards of £1,000, by



John Walter, Esq. of Bearwood, in Berkshire, in memory of his father, who for some years represented the town in Parliament. This cross stands in the centre of an open space between Lister Gate and Carrington Street, not far from St Nicholas' Church. The County Hall, a heavy-looking structure, standing on the south side of the High Pavement near to St Mary's Church, was erected in 1770, upon the site of an ancient building which appears to have been partly rebuilt, at the expense of the county magistrates, in 1618, but which had long been suffered to remain in so disgraceful a state of dilapidation, that upon one occasion, during the assizes, the flooring gave way, and the judges inflicted a fine of £2,000 upon the county, on account of the dangerously ruinous condition of the hall. The ground upon which it stands was expressly excepted from the jurisdiction of the town by the charter of Henry VI., and continues to form a part of the county to this day. The grand jury room is embellished with two full length portraits of George III. and Queen Charlotte, presented to the county by the first Earl Manvers; and here were formerly preserved the standards and kettle-drums which belonged to the Duke of Kingston's regiment of Light Horse during the rebellion of 1745. The Crown Court is now in course of reconstruction. The Judges' Lodgings are on the opposite side of the High Pavement. The Guild Hall, which stands at the lower end of the High Pavement, near the site of the old Weekday Cross, is a plain square building, rebuilt about the year 1744, and containing nothing worthy of note beyond a few old portraits. The Mechanics' Institute, in Milton Street, a large and handsome structure, having a lofty portico in front, supported on fluted columns of the

Corinthian order, imitated from the temple of the Sibyl at Tivoli, and containing the largest public room in the town, was erected in 1844, but, being seriously damaged by fire, was partly rebuilt in 1867. The Government School of Art, the Corn Exchange, the Assembly Rooms, and other public buildings, do not call for more than passing remark. The General Hospital, a large brick building, situated upon Standard Hill, near the castle, was erected by subscription in 1781, and greatly enlarged in 1854, about which time a handsome new chapel was added. There are also two Lunatic Asylums, an Asylum for the Blind, a Dispensary, and numerous other philanthropic institutions. The alms-houses in Nottingham are endowed with property which produces upwards of £2,500 per annum, and afford comfortable houses for about 200 poor aged alms-people, besides relieving more than 50 out-pensioners. The Plumptre Hospital, in Plumptre Square, is the most ancient charitable institution in the town, having been founded as early as 1392 by John de Plumptre, sometime Mayor of Nottingham, for the maintenance of two chaplains and thirteen poor widows "broken with old age and depressed with poverty." The hospital was entirely rebuilt in 1824, by John Plumptre, Esq. of Fredville, in Kent, the representative of the munificent founder, and no part of the original structure now remains. Collin's Hospital, a large quadrangular building, situated in Spaniel Row, was founded in 1704, by Abel Collin, a wealthy mercer, for twenty-four poor aged persons "who have seen better days and are in reduced circumstances;" and in 1834 a new alms-house, supplying accommodation for twenty more poor people, was erected in Carrington Street, with the surplus arising from the

estate bequeathed by Mr Collin. The Lambley Hospital, on the Derby Road, was founded by the corporation, during the mayoralty of Edward Swann, in 1812; and there are likewise other alms-houses founded by Alderman Thomas Willoughby (1524), William Gregory, town-clerk of Nottingham (1613), Henry Handley (1650), Jonathan Labray (1718), and other charitable persons. The Free Grammar School, founded and endowed in 1513, by Dame Agnes Mellor, the widow of Richard Mellor, a bell-founder of Nottingham, originally stood in the old part of the town, not far from St Mary's Church, but the old building being totally inadequate to the requirements of the school, the trustees have recently erected a handsome new school-house, in the later Perpendicular style of architecture, upon an airy and commanding situation on the western side of the town, which was completed in 1868. The Charity School, founded in 1706, is a plain Elizabethan edifice, rebuilt in 1853. The People's College, an institution for the unsectarian education of the working classes, was built by public subscription in 1846.

The Church Cemetery is picturesquely situated on a part of the old forest on the northern side of the town. It contains many curious and romantic caverns, together with numerous vestiges of pillars, arched cavities, and passages, hewn in the living rock. Some of these remains are of high antiquity, and are supposed to have formed some portion of a Druidical temple. There is also a very curious range of excavations in the perpendicular rock which rises above the river Leen towards the southern extremity of the Park, a little to the south-east of the castle. These singular caverns, vulgarly known as "Papist Holes," possibly date from the time

of the ancient Britons, but they have unquestionably undergone very considerable alterations at some later period, and present indications of having at one time been appropriated by some religious confraternity. Deering tells us "that in the time of the civil war the Roundheads demolished a part of them, under the pretence of their abhorrence to Popery." Another object of attraction is the Arboretum, a very tastefully laid out public garden, which extends over about seventeen acres, and contains amongst other things an interesting war trophy, flanked by large cannon, taken at the siege of Sebastopol, in the Crimean War, in the centre of which is suspended a fine Chinese bell, captured at Canton, in the China campaign, and presented to the corporation of Nottingham by Lieut.-Colonel Burmester and the officers and men of the Fifty-Ninth or Second Nottinghamshire regiment of Foot. St Ann's Well (which now, however, presents few attractions beyond its picturesque situation in a narrow winding valley, enclosed by boldly swelling hills) lies upwards of a mile from the town, and was once looked upon as a spot of unusual sanctity, and enjoyed a great reputation for its supposed healing virtues, being resorted to by vast numbers of sick persons and pilgrims. Here, before the Reformation, stood an ancient chapel, dedicated in honour of the patron saint of the well, which, at the dissolution of religious houses, was given to the corporation of Nottingham, together with all its possessions. Although so near to Nottingham, St Ann's Well once lay buried in the thick woods of Thorny Wood Chase, and is said to have been a favourite haunt of Robin Hood, several reputed relics of whom were preserved at a noted hostelry which occupied the site of the chapel, some

vestiges of which remain to this day. In former times the corporation of Nottingham held many of their civic banquets at St Ann's Well, and here, upon one occasion, they entertained James I. so hospitably that His Majesty gave them the surrounding woods, called "the Coppices," as a mark of respect for the handsome manner in which he was treated by the loyal townsmen. On the hill side, not far from the well, was the celebrated labyrinth known as the "Shepherd's Race," which was unfortunately ploughed up on the enclosure of the neighbouring open lands in 1798. The public walks, known as "Robin Hood Chase," leading to the summit of Toadhole Hill, from which a fine prospect may be obtained, and the "Queen's Walk," leading from the town to the banks of the river Trent, together with the several public recreation-grounds, are much frequented by the inhabitants of the town, and the tourist will not regret a visit to them. The Trent Bridge is another object of interest, worthy of more than mere passing mention. From Saxon chronicles it appears that the first bridge erected on this spot was built by Edward the Elder, in the early part of the tenth century, about 140 years before the Norman invasion. This bridge was called the "Heathbethe Brigg," and probably consisted of stone piers and timber beams or framing, which was the character of bridges of that date. At a subsequent period this ancient bridge was replaced by another, entirely constructed of stone; and from certain old arches which remained until recent times, there can be no difficulty in ascribing to it the date of the Transitional period between the Norman and the Early English styles of architecture, or the middle of the twelfth century. This also corresponds with the time at which Henry

II. rebuilt the wall round the town, so that it is not improbable that the first arched bridge was also built by him. The reparation of the old bridge was undertaken by the brethren of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, in Nottingham ; but as time progressed, and as the structure suffered materially from floods and civil wars, its sustentation became otherwise provided for, and ultimately it assumed the position of a county bridge, the repairing of it being entrusted to the corporation of Nottingham, to whom, for the purpose, divers grants of money and lands were made by the Crown and private benefactors. In 1868, the old bridge was replaced by a fine new structure, consisting of three main arches or spans, each 100 feet wide in the clear, resting upon elaborately carved stone piers, adorned with eight heraldic shields, aptly chosen to illustrate some of the principal historical events connected with the ancient town of Nottingham. The width of this new bridge is 40 feet, and the total length about 700 feet.

A few words relative to the trade and manufactures of the town must be added. "The two great staple trades," says White, "which have raised Nottingham to its present wealth and magnitude, and which employ many thousands of its inhabitants of both sexes, are the hosiery and lace manufactures, the former of which (though the stocking-frame was invented in 1589) was not of much importance till the middle of the eighteenth century, nor the latter till 1778, when the point net machine was invented and appended to a stocking-frame, but some years ago was superseded by a warp and bobbin net machine, working on various new and improved principles, The bone or cushion lace was, from an early period, a

source of profitable industry to a considerable number of females in this town, till they found a more constant and perhaps a more lucrative employment, in chevening hosiery and in embroidering machine-wrought lace net. But the first manufacture by which Nottingham enriched itself, and which it has long since lost, was that of woollen cloth, for we find that as early as 1199 King John founded in the town a merchant's guild, and granted a charter to the burgesses, forbidding all persons within ten miles round Nottingham to work dyed cloth, except in the borough. But at the close of the sixteenth century the cloth trade in Nottingham gave place to the hosiery manufacture, which soon afforded ample employment for the worsted mills, the weavers, the dyers, and the smiths of the town, the latter of whom were very numerous, and had previously occupied the whole of Bridlesmith Gate, Girdler Gate (now Pelham Street), and Smithy Row, where they had long manufactured bits, snaffles, buckles, and other articles for bridles, girdles, &c.; but they now discarded their ancient occupation, and began to make stocking-frames, many of which consist of 6000 parts, principally of iron." Deering tells us that Nottingham was once famous for the production of the most curious articles in iron-work, and hence, he says, arose the following proverb, recorded by Fuller:—

"The little smith of Nottingham,  
Who doth the work that no man can."

The manufacture of machine-made lace, the undoubted progeny of the hosiery manufacture, has since the middle of the eighteenth century been advanced by numerous ingenious inventions, until it has now attained a degree of perfection truly astonishing; but

the history of its gradual development would occupy a volume. It may be interesting to notice that the first cotton mill ever built was erected at Nottingham by the celebrated Richard Arkwright, in 1769, upon a piece of ground between Hockley and Woolpack Lane. The Nottingham bell-founders were once of great repute, and the famous bell "Great Tom of Lincoln" was cast here by Thomas Oldfield in 1595. There were formerly two potteries and two glass-houses in the town, but they have long since disappeared. The tanners here once formed a numerous and respectable company, with a master and two wardens; and in 1664 there were no less than forty-seven tanyards in the lower part of the town, but in 1750 they were reduced to three, and at the present time there is not one. The malting business has, ever since the time of the Norman invasion, been a source of considerable profit to the town, mainly owing to the goodness of the barley grown throughout the surrounding district, the excellent quality of the fuel used in the malt-kilns, and the superior manner of malting, which, together with the deep and cool rock-cellars, possessed by almost every house in the town, have long since combined to establish the fame of Nottingham ale, which Stukeley notices as being "highly valued for softness and pleasant taste."

Nottingham boasts of several eminent townsmen, amongst whom may be mentioned William de Nottingham, an Augustine friar of the fourteenth century, noted for his theological writings; John Plough, rector of St Peter's Church, who wrote against clerical celibacy, for which, after the accession of Queen Mary, he was obliged to quit his benefice and fly to Basle, in Switzerland; Dr Charles Deering,



a native of Germany, who, besides other works, wrote a history of Nottingham, which was published after his death, in 1751;\* Henry Kirke White, the poet, whose father was a respectable butcher in Nottingham; and Robert Millhouse, who is justly considered as one of the most brilliant of England's minor bards. The two brothers, Paul and Thomas Sandby, the former of whom was as celebrated for his artistic genius as the latter was for his skill as an architect, were both Nottingham men; as were also the well-known artists, Bonnington, Dawson, Barber, and M'Callum. Sir Charles Fellows, the Oriental traveller; Dr John Percy, one of our most learned chemists; and John Russell Hind, the distinguished astronomer, were likewise born in Nottingham.

\* His work was entitled "An Historical Account of the Ancient and Present State of the Town of Nottingham," and contains many very curious and interesting particulars relative to this ancient borough.

## EXCURSION I.

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*FROM NOTTINGHAM THROUGH WILFORD, CLIFTON, BARTON, AND THRUMPTON, AND ALONG THE VALLEY OF THE SOAR, BY KINGSTON AND SUTTON BONNINGTON, RETURNING TO NOTTINGHAM BY WAY OF REMPSTON, BUNN, AND RUDDINGTON.*

WILFORD, a small and picturesque village screened in a profusion of foliage on the banks of the river Trent, stands at a distance of about one mile and a half from the town of Nottingham. A noted ferry near this place, together with the ancient "St Wilfrid's Ford," from which the village acquired its designation, has recently been entirely superseded by a fine iron bridge, first projected by the late Sir Robert Juckes Clifton, Bart., but not completed until after his decease. Wilford forms a part of the great manor of Clifton, and was formerly the occasional seat of a younger branch of the knightly family of Clifton, one of whom, called Gervase de Wilford, was Chief Baron of the Exchequer in the time of Edward III. The poet Henry Kirke White spent much of his time at Wilford, occupying a small cottage on the banks of the river near the church; and it was in Wilford churchyard that he wrote the lines, commencing—

"Here would I wish to sleep. This is the spot  
Which I have long marked out to lay my bones in;  
Tired out and wearied with the riotous world,  
Beneath this yew I would be sepulchred."

The church, with the parsonage hard by, is approached from the village-green by an avenue of lofty elm trees,

and in like manner the burial-ground is enshrouded in a dense mass of foliage. The secluded position of the church near a broad bend of the river is still singularly beautiful, but the recent erection of unsightly colliery works upon the opposite bank of the river have sorely marred and disfigured one of the most peculiarly picturesque spots of which Nottinghamshire could boast. The chancel, which is a fine specimen of Perpendicular architecture, and has a somewhat remarkable turret enclosing the newel staircase to the old rood-loft, contains a well-executed medallion bust of Henry Kirke White, together with a stained window, erected to his memory by public subscription. Outside the church is a very ancient sepulchral slab, inscribed with a fleuriated cross, and amongst the numerous memorials with which the churchyard is crowded may be found a large tomb to Captain John Dean, who for some years commanded a ship-of-war in the service of the Czar of Russia, and died at Wilford in 1738, and whose romantic adventures have formed the subject of a recently published volume.

CLIFTON occupies a somewhat more elevated situation near the banks of the river, about four miles to the south-west of Nottingham. A pathway skirting the bank of the Trent leads from Wilford to Clifton Grove, a beautiful avenue more than a mile in length, planted by Sir Robert Clifton, Bart., about the year 1740. The legend of the "Fair Maid of Clifton," so well known as forming the theme of one of Kirke White's longest and most noted poems, is intimately connected with Clifton Grove—a steep fissure in the hill-side being still popularly recognised as the place where Margaret, the false fair one, was dragged down by the fiends into the deep dark pool of the river

beneath. Clifton is the *beau ideal* of an English village, and its venerable church and burial-ground, fine old hall, and quaint almshouses and cottages picturesquely scattered amongst the trees, form a series of pleasant pictures. The ancient and knightly family of Clifton, whose surname was derived from this place, were seated here since the reign of Henry III., when Sir Gervase de Clifton purchased the manor from Gerard de Rodes. His descendant, Sir Gervase Clifton, a man of great popularity, was created a baronet in 1611 by James I., and the family became extinct in the male line in 1869, on the death of Sir Robert Juckes Clifton, Bart., when the estates passed to his kinsman, Henry Robert Markham, Esq., who assumed the name and arms of Clifton. The Hall, which contains a good collection of family portraits, is a plain square brick mansion of considerable size, deeply embowered in fine old trees, and commanding a most extensive prospect over the valley of the Trent. Attached to the mansion there was an old chapel, in which the services of the Romish Church were performed until the earlier part of the last century; the Cliftons having long adhered to the old religion. The parish church of St Mary, a cruciform structure of some antiquity, with a fine square tower containing a peal of four melodious bells, stands near to the Hall at the western extremity of the village. The family vault of the Cliftons is on the south side of the chancel, and has the date 1632 above the entrance. Several of the monuments are especially worthy of inspection. In the south transept is a fine altar-tomb, exhibiting the effigy of "Gentle" Sir Gervase Clifton, who died in 1587; and in the north transept are two altar-tombs with recumbent effigies of a much earlier

date, together with brasses to Sir Robert Clifton, 1478, Sir Gervase Clifton, 1491, and George Clifton, Esq., 1587; and also a floor-stone with a quaint inscription to Dame Anne Thorold, "the most loving and careful grandmother of Sir Gervase Clifton," who died in 1611. The chancel contains a large mural monument in memory of the first baronet, who died in 1666, and other memorials to his seven wives. Here is also the grave of Joseph, commonly called the "Black Prince," a negro servant of the Clifton family, converted to Christianity in 1685. He is said to have grown to the height of nearly seven feet, which is marked upon a stone in the church porch.

BARTON, a small rural village, five miles south-west of Nottingham, is reached by a footpath from Clifton, pleasantly skirting the edge of a wood. Barton was once the seat and property of the ancient Derbyshire family of Sacheverell, of whose mansion nothing beyond some portion of the stables and the garden wall now remains. The parish church of St George, half-buried amidst a group of old lime trees, contains mural monuments to Henrie Sacheverell, Esq., 1598, and Ralph Sacheverell, Esq., 1605; and an altar-tomb with the effigy of William Sacheverell, Esq., 1616, together with various other monuments worthy of notice. At Brent's Hill, near the village, are the remains of a very extensive and important British fortification, originally defended by fifteen earthen banks each about half a mile in extent; and upon the hill side, about half a mile from the village, on the vicarage farm, are the remains of two interesting Roman pavements.

THRUMPTON lies about a mile beyond Barton, near

to the confluence of the rivers Trent and Soar. The Hall, a fine old brick and stone mansion with ornamented gables and square heavy framed windows, was built about the year 1630, and though it has undergone many modern alterations, it still retains much of the ancient work, and affords a very fair example of the domestic architecture of the early Stuart period. The mansion was formerly the seat of the Pigot family, but now belongs to Lady Byron, one of whose ancestors purchased the property from the widow of Gervase Pigot, Esq., in 1696. The church has recently been restored, and indeed almost entirely rebuilt, at considerable expense, by the liberality of Lady Byron. It contains a curious mural monument to Gervase Pigot, Esq., who was high sheriff of Nottinghamshire in 1669, and being then in mourning for his only daughter, "had for his men," says Thoroton, "black liveries with small silver trimmings, which fitted them for their last attendance upon him to his vault," he dying shortly after the summer assizes during the year of his office. Crossing a picturesque and well-wooded eminence, known as Thrumpton Park, and following a field-path southward for about a mile and a half, the tourist reaches

RADCLIFFE-ON-SOAR, a little village situated, as its name implies, upon the river Soar, which is here noted for its pike. A younger branch of the Sacheverell family had a mansion at this place, but the property having passed into other hands, the old manor-house was taken down in 1719, with the exception of the great dining-room, which still remains, and is now used as a barn. The church dates from the thirteenth century, and contains some interesting monuments to the Sacheverells and others, those most

worthy of notice being a fine canopied altar-tomb to Ralph Sacheverell, Esq., who died in 1539, and a ponderous monument to Henry Sacheverell, Esq., who died in 1625, and to his three wives, whose effigies afford very interesting examples of the gradual change in female attire during the earlier part of the seventeenth century. There is also a somewhat remarkable arched recess on the north side of the chancel, beneath which was an almost shapeless effigy of great antiquity.

KINGSTON-UPON-SOAR, which lies about a mile beyond Radcliffe, at a distance of about ten miles south-west of Nottingham, was formerly part of the vast possessions of the family of Babington, who had a mansion here until the time of Queen Elizabeth, when Anthony Babington was attainted and executed for favouring the cause of the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots, and his estates were confiscated. The old mansion has long been demolished, but the outer walls of the court and gardens, and an old stone gateway, were in existence within the last few years. About thirty years ago, the Right Hon. Lord Belper, who now owns the property, erected a fine mansion in the Elizabethan style upon the rising ground on the eastern side of the village. The site was judiciously chosen, and extensive improvements and planting have rendered Kingston Hall one of the most complete country seats in the locality. The church, a small structure, was almost entirely rebuilt by the present noble owner of the estate in 1832. It contains some singularly ornamented screen-work, richly sculptured and adorned with the arms of Babington, and many curious devices, amongst which a remarkable rebus of the name Babington—or babe-in-tun—is conspicuous.

GOTHAM, the village of proverbial repute, stands about three miles nearer Nottingham, at the foot of the long ridge of high ground known as the Wolds. The parish church of St Lawrence contains several fine monuments of the family of St Andrew, who were seated at this place for more than three hundred years. The inhabitants of Gotham were for centuries noted for their folly, and tradition affirms that they owed their unenviable notoriety to the following incident:—King John, being on his way to Nottingham, intended to cross over the meadows at Gotham, but was prevented by the villagers, who apprehended that the ground over which a king had passed must for ever become public property. The king, highly incensed at this treatment, subsequently sent officers to inquire into the reason of so presumptuous a proceeding, that he might duly punish the offenders by way of fine or otherwise; but the villagers, hearing of the approach of the king's servants, conceived an expedient to avert their monarch's displeasure, and when the officers arrived they found some of the inhabitants endeavouring to drown an eel in a pool; others were employed in hedging in a cuckoo which had perched upon a bush; some were tumbling their cheeses down a hill, so that they might find their way to Nottingham market for sale; whilst others were raking a pond to find moonbeams; in short, all were engaged in some equally foolish pursuit, which convinced the king's officers that they were but a village of fools, and could not therefore be held responsible for their actions. Hence the adage, "the wise men of Gotham." Fuller gravely remarks that we must not imagine that all the men of Gotham have maintained this reputation, and instances William de Gotham, a man of great probity and



learning, who was master of Michael House, Cambridge, in 1339, and twice chancellor of the University.

SUTTON-BONNINGTON, a large and well-built village, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Soar, about two miles beyond Kingston, at a distance of eleven miles from Nottingham, is only remarkable as being composed of the two ancient villages of Bonnington and Sutton-by-Bonnington, which from the increase of population have long been merged into one, although the parishes still continue distinct, and both churches are maintained.

NORMANTON-UPON-SOAR lies about one mile and a half from Sutton-Bonnington. The church has a very fine tower and spire, and contains a font of unusual dimensions, and several old mural monuments to the Willoughbys and others. The old hall, once the seat of a branch of the Willoughby family, was taken down about sixty years ago. Normanton was lately the residence of two eminent breeders and graziers, Mr Thomas Buckley and Mr James Richards, to the former of whom the late Duke of Bedford gave seven hundred guineas for the use of one of his rams for a single season.

STANFORD-UPON-SOAR is very beautifully situated on the banks of the river at the foot of a well-wooded eminence. The parish church of St Luke contains two ancient monumental effigies, and some other modern memorials to the Lewis family. In the time of Philip and Mary, Thomas Kniveton, then lord of this manor, was convicted of coining, and his estates being forfeited to the Crown, the manor was granted to Robert Raynes, the queen's goldsmith, whose grandson erected a fine mansion upon a barren hill, about a mile and a half to the north-east of the

village, and it is said that he intended to remove both the church and village of Stanford from the valley to the top of the hill near his mansion, but he died before he could carry his project into effect, and his spendthrift son sold the estate to Thomas Lewis, an alderman of London, whose descendant, the Rev. Samuel Vere Dashwood, now resides at Stanford Hall, a fine modern mansion, occupying the site of the old hall, in the midst of a picturesque and thickly timbered park.

REMPSTON, a small village, pleasantly situated about a mile to the eastward of Stanford Hall, was once the property of the De Rempston family, one of whom, Sir Thomas de Rempston, K.G., was constable of the Tower of London in the time of Henry IV. The parish church of All Saints, a venerable-looking fabric nearly covered with ivy, is of comparatively modern erection, being built in 1771 out of the ruins of the old church of St Peter-in-the-Rushes and of an ancient chapel which had long been deserted. The old church stood about half a mile from the village, and its burial-ground is now an open field; some few tombstones yet remain, and there is a large monument to the Ven. Robert Marsden, Archdeacon of Nottingham, who died in 1748. Leaving Rempston and passing through the village of Costock (or Cortlingstock, as it should properly be designated), and following the high road to Nottingham for about two miles and a half, the tourist reaches the top of a well-wooded eminence of some considerable height, commanding an expanse of country, with the town of Nottingham in the distance, which is perhaps unrivalled as a champaign view, and which amply

repays the somewhat laborious ascent. About a mile further is

BUNNY, a truly charming rural village, with a venerable church crowded with old monuments, an ancient hall, a free school, an almshouse, an old hostelry, and substantial farmhouses and snug cottages, all shrouded in verdure. Since the time of Queen Elizabeth, Bunny has, until recently, been the seat of the Parkyns family. Colonel Isham Parkyns bravely defended Ashby-de-la-Zouch against the Parliamentarians, and in reward for his loyalty Charles II. created his son a baronet in 1680. The second baronet was a remarkable person, who will long be remembered in the neighbourhood. He re-erected the old hall, and enclosed a park, three miles in circumference, with a wall built on arches—the first ever built upon that principle in this country. He restored the beautiful church, rebuilt all the farmhouses, founded the free school, clothed the hills with woods, formed an aqueduct and a decoy, and erected a singular hunting and hawking tower, which still remains. His chief business, however, was the introduction of what he termed “the noble science of wrestling,” and for this purpose he founded an annual wrestling-match at Bunny, which has only been discontinued during the present century. He further perpetuated his attachment to the science by having his statue in the attitude of a wrestler, with Death for his opponent, executed in his lifetime by his own chaplain, as the appropriate embellishment of his tomb. Sir Thomas Parkyns died at Bunny in 1741, and was succeeded by his eldest son, who was thrice married—first, to his great-niece; secondly, to the daughter of a poor cottager in Bunny; and thirdly, to

the governess of his children. His son was made an Irish peer in 1795, by the title of Baron Ranelagh, and his son and successor, who died in 1850, alienated the Bunny estate from his family, bequeathing it to Mrs Harriett Forteach, the present owner. The Hall, which stands near the village, has been completely modernised, but one portion of the old mansion (the curious tower already referred to) has fortunately been preserved intact. The church is a fine old edifice, with a large and handsome chancel, and a fine tower and spire. Within its walls are numerous monuments of the Parkyns family of various styles and dates, well worthy of inspection. A large mural monument on the north side of the chancel, exhibits the effigies of Richard Parkyns, Esq., who died in 1603, and of his wife and eight children. There is also a curious monument in the south aisle to Humphrey Barley, Esq., who died in 1570. But the principal attraction of this church is the singular monument of Sir Thomas Parkyns, the second baronet, surmounted by his effigy in a wrestling posture, and very quaintly inscribed.

BRADMORE, a well-built village, occupying an eminence about a mile to the north of Bunny, was partly destroyed by fire in the time of Queen Anne. The church was never rebuilt, and the tower and spire, which are all that remain, are used as a barn.

RUDDINGTON stands about a mile and a half beyond Bradmore, at a distance of nearly five miles from the town of Nottingham, and is one of the most populous villages in this part of the county. The church is a hideous modern structure, entirely rebuilt in 1824, with the exception of the chancel, tower, and spire. Until 1773 this edifice was a chapel only, but in that year the burial-ground was consecrated, and

enclosed with part of the materials of the original mother-church, that stood in the open fields about a mile to the east of Ruddington, where there had formerly been a village called Flawford. The ancient church of Flawford dated from Saxon times, and contained many fine old monuments of the highest interest, but having long been neglected, and being in a state of ruinous dilapidation, it was wantonly and sacrilegiously destroyed in 1773. Not even the monuments were spared, and the greater part of the stone-work was used to mend the roads, build bridges, or repair farm-buildings. Ruddington Hall, a good modern mansion, now the seat of Thomas Cross, Esq., is pleasantly situated at the foot of a wooded eminence, about a mile to the north of the village; and not far from it is Ruddington Grange, another commodious modern mansion, erected in 1832 by Sir Thomas Parkyns, Bart., and now the property of Joseph Paget, Esq., J.P. Nearly two miles from Ruddington the main road skirts a considerable eminence, known as Wilford Hill, and looking to the north-east from this point, a fine view down the valley of the Trent may be obtained. Upwards of a mile and a half further the road crosses the Trent by the Nottingham bridge, and at some distance beyond enters the town itself.

## EXCURSION II.

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*FROM NOTTINGHAM, THROUGH WEST BRIDGEFORD AND PLUMTREE, TO WILLOUGHBY-ON-THE-WOLDS, RETURNING BY HICKLING AND OWTHORPE TO HOLME PIERREPONT, AND FROM THENCE BY RADCLIFFE-UPON-TRENT TO BINGHAM, AND BY TYTHBY, LANGAR, ELTON, WHATTON, AND CAR COLSTON TO EAST BRIDGEFORD.*

WEST BRIDGEFORD lies in the valley of the Trent at a short distance beyond the Trent bridge, and about one mile and a half to the south-east of the town of Nottingham. It is reputed to have been the place where the famous Lady of Mercia erected a strong fortification in Saxon times to repress the violence of the Danes, who then possessed Nottingham, and to obstruct their passage across the river Trent. The parish church of St Giles is a small time-worn edifice, with a low pinnacled tower, and contains some remains of old stained glass. The Hall, which has been the occasional seat of the Musters family, is a large square brick mansion, dating from the last century.

EDWALTON, a small and mean-looking village, is situated about a mile and a half to the south of West Bridgeford. The church, which is dedicated to the Holy Rood, is an humble edifice with a plain brick steeple. In the churchyard may be found a headstone to Mrs Rebecca Freeland, a widow gentlewoman, who died 1741, bearing these lines—

“She drank good ale, good punch, and wine,  
And lived to the age of ninety-nine.”

TOLLERTON, which lies about half a mile to the east of Edwalton, on a pleasant and thickly wooded declivity, was for more than six hundred years the seat and property of the ancient family of Barry and their descendants, but has recently been sold by Robert Otter Barry, Esq., to Saul Isaac, Esq., M.P. The Hall was rebuilt about fifty years ago in the pseudo-Gothic style, with a lofty flag-tower, and has a cloister communicating with the church, an incongruous modern structure, having a mortuary chapel belonging to the Barry family attached to the southern side of the chancel. The surrounding grounds are judiciously planned, and of some considerable extent.

PLUMTREE is pleasantly situated at the foot of the Wolds, about five miles and a half to the south-east of Nottingham, and was formerly a place of some importance, being the capital of a wapentake, which, however, has long ceased to be recognised. The church has a fine Norman arch and doorway in the lower part of the tower, and contains a mural monument to the Ven. Vere Harcourt, D.D., Archdeacon of Nottingham, who died in 1683.

STANTON-ON-THE-WOLDS, a small scattered village, occupies a bleak and elevated situation on the highest part of the Wolds, about eight miles and a half south-south-east of Nottingham, and bears evident traces of having once been a far more considerable place than at present. Tradition relates how this place and the neighbouring village of Thorpe-in-Glebis were destroyed in remote ages by a hailstorm of extraordinary violence. The venerable church of All Saints, one of the smallest parochial churches in the Midland counties, is a curious structure of considerable antiquity, built almost entirely of rubble. Throsby, who visited

this place about the year 1790, says "the church is below description ; it is of all others, within and without, the most despicable place I ever beheld." The chancel contains an old mutilated incised slab, and a plain monument to Sir John Parsons, Bart., who died in 1704. The Manor-house, a plain brick building formerly surrounded by a moat, of which some part yet remains, was at one time the seat of the Parsons family, but is now occupied by a tenant farmer, and belongs to the family of Lowe, of Highfield, in this county, the present lords of the manor of Stanton-on-the-Wolds.

At WIDMERPOOL, two miles beyond Stanton, Major George Coke Robertson has recently erected a fine mansion, which forms a very conspicuous object in the surrounding landscape. The church presents nothing of interest, having been entirely rebuilt in 1832.

WYSALL is a small village, lying about a mile and a half to the west of Widmerpool. The church contains a fine old font, some curious *miserere* seats in the chancel, and a large and handsome altar-tomb, upon which are the recumbent effigies of Hugh Armstrong, Esq., who died in 1572, and of Mary his wife, who died in 1562. The curfew bell is still rung at this place.

THORPE-IN-GLEBIS, once a place of some importance, lies about a mile to the south of Wysall. Thoroton states that in the time of Charles II. the only inhabitant was a shepherd, who kept ale to sell in the church ! The church is now a heap of ruins, and the village consists merely of five or six cottages, together with the remains of an ancient Hall, once the seat of the Armstrong family.



WILLOUGHBY-ON-THE-WOLDS, a large and somewhat picturesque village, surrounded by a double row of fine old trees, is pleasantly situated in a slight declivity upon the Wolds, near the borders of Leicestershire, at a distance of rather more than eleven miles to the south-east of Nottingham. This place is interesting to the antiquary as having been an important Roman station, considered by Horsley and other authorities to have been the *Vernometum*, so often mistaken for *Margidunum*. Stukeley tells us that the old Roman town, of which the remains of the ditch and mound surrounding the camp still exist, was in a field called "Hennings," where, according to local tradition, there was once an ancient city, known as Long Billington, but the site is now designated "the Black Field," from the unusual colour and richness of the soil. Tradition further relates that there was formerly a church at a place called "Wells Barn," and that the city once extended so far. Near the source of Willoughby brook, upwards of half a mile from the village, there is an old tumulus, called "Cross-hill," upon which an annual revel is held, supposed to be founded upon some traditionary festival of the Roman mythology. Many coins, pavements, and other antiquities have been found in the neighbourhood. Notwithstanding the retired situation of this place it did not escape the baneful effects of the unhappy civil commotions of the seventeenth century, but was the scene of a bloody contest, which took place near the church in July 1648. The lofty cross, standing in the centre of the village, was doomed for destruction by the soldiery of Cromwell; but their enthusiasm was so much damped by some strong ale given them by the vicar, after he had

made a long speech in defence of its innocence, that it was permitted to remain unmolested; it was, however, unfortunately, taken down about thirty years ago. The church is dedicated to St Mary and All Saints, and has attached to it a mortuary chapel dedicated to St Nicholas, in which the tourist will find many fine old monuments of the family of Willoughby, who derived their surname from this place, and were seated here until about the time of Edward III., when they removed to Wollaton. In this chapel the elevation of the old Romish altar may still be observed, and indeed some portion of it yet remains. On the floor of the south aisle are some curious tessellated tiles, and near them is a small brass plate, inscribed—

“Here lyeth the body of Colonel Stanhope, who was slain in Willoughby Field in the month of July 1648, in the 24th year of his age, being a soldier of King Charles the 1st.

Near Willoughby, the important old Roman road, known as the Fosse, enters Nottinghamshire, running in an almost direct line towards Lincoln. Horsely observes that this Fosse road proceeds directly from Bath to Lincoln, and has been continued beyond Bath as far as Ilchester, if not quite to the sea. Stukeley, indeed, is of opinion that it has been carried as far as Seaton on the Devonshire coast, and it seems equally probable that it was continued through Lincoln to the sea-coast beyond.

HICKLING, a large village, lying at the foot of the Wolds, about twelve miles to the south-east of Nottingham, was believed by Camden to have been a minor Roman station, and numerous coins and medals, most of them of the age of Vespasian, have been discovered in the vicinity. The church, which is

an ancient and somewhat dilapidated edifice, with a modern chancel, contains some remains of old painted glass, and also a fine brass to Ralph Babyngton, sometime rector of Hickling, who died in 1521. Some few years ago a stone coffin, bearing a Runic inscription, was found beneath the pavement of the chancel. There is a noted chalybeate spring near the church.

COLSTON BASSET, which is situated upon the banks of the little river Smite, about two miles north of Hickling, once formed a part of the possessions of the noble family of Basset of Drayton. One Golding, who was steward to Sir Thomas Kitson, the lord of this manor in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, acquired sufficient wealth by his stewardship to enable him to purchase the estate, and his grandson, Sir Edward Golding, a zealous Romanist, who had a fine mansion here, was created a baronet by Charles I. The Hall, now the seat and property of George Baynton Davy, Esq., J.P., is a large and handsome modern residence, occupying a gentle eminence on the northern banks of the Smite, upon the site of the old mansion erected by the Golding family. The church, which stands at some little distance from the village, has a low massive square tower with a peal of five very fine bells, and contains some good carved oak screen-work, and several memorials to the Goldings. In 1604, Colston Basset was visited by the plague, and more than a third of the inhabitants of the village fell victims to its ravages.

OWTHORPE, a small village, occupying a very retired situation on the eastern side of the Wolds, nine miles to the south-east of Nottingham, came into the possession of the Hutchinson family about the time of

Henry VIII. The church and the Hall were both rebuilt about the year 1650 by Colonel John Hutchinson, who for several years after the Restoration lived secretly, though probably by a tacit forbearance on the part of the Crown, in his house at Owthorpe, in which he is said to have constructed a room with apertures to fire through, into which he might retreat in case of any attempt being made to take him. However, in 1663, he was imprisoned and kept in confinement until his death, which occurred at Sandowne Castle, in Kent, in the year 1664. The old Hall, a large square mansion very substantially built, but with little ornament, was taken down some few years ago, and only some traces of the gardens remain to mark its site. The church, which is very small, is dedicated to St Margaret, and contains various memorials to the Hutchinson family, the oldest being a mural monument adorned with military trophies and armorial bearings, and inscribed to the memory of the Parliamentary colonel whose remains are deposited in the vault beneath. His coffin is popularly believed to be placed in an upright position, and secured to the walls of the vault by strong chains. From the hills above the village a fine prospect of the "fair vale of Belvoir" is obtained.

COTGRAVE occupies an elevated situation six miles south-east of Nottingham. The church contains several monuments to the Scrimshaw family, who formerly possessed a good estate in this parish, and resided here. Near the village are some vestiges of an early Saxon burying-place.

HOLME PIERREPONT, which lies near to the banks of the river Trent, about five miles from Nottingham, has been the seat and property of the noble family of

Pierrepont ever since the time of Edward I., when Sir Henry Pierrepont acquired the estate through marriage with the heiress of Manvers. The family became extinct in the male line in 1773, upon the death of Evelyn, second Duke of Kingston, and is now represented by the Right Hon. the Earl Manvers, whose grandfather assumed the name and arms of Pierrepont in 1788, and was raised to the peerage in 1806. The old Hall, a large irregular mansion, some parts of which are of considerable antiquity, stands amidst a group of fine old trees, at a short distance from the river. About the time of Queen Elizabeth, Sir Henry Pierrepont (whose monument may be seen in the church) added considerably to an ancient mansion occupying the same site, so as to complete a quadrangle, the northern side of which was greatly enlarged by his grandson, the first Marquess of Dorchester, about the time of the Restoration. The second Duke of Kingston took down some part of the Hall about the middle of the last century, and the whole of the north and west sides of the quadrangle were subsequently demolished, so that comparatively little of the fine old mansion now remains. Numerous paintings adorn the walls of the various apartments, conspicuous amongst which are fine portraits of the first Marquess of Dorchester; Lady Grace Pierrepont, lady of the bed-chamber to Queen Anne; Evelyn, first Duke of Kingston, by *Vanderbank*; Isabella, first Duchess of Kingston; and Lady Frances Pierrepont, the mother of the first Earl Manvers; also a spirited likeness of William Wilkins, the architect. The church, which stands on the western side of the Hall, was considerably enlarged by the first Marquess of Dorchester,

about the year 1666. In the mortuary chapel, at the east end of the south aisle, is a lofty mural monument, supported by Corinthian pillars, and pompously inscribed to "the illustrious Princess, Gertrude, Countess of Kingston," wife of "the most noble and excellent lord, Robert, Earl of Kingston," who died in 1649. In the south aisle is an old effigy, apparently in a pilgrim's habit, and also the mutilated figure of a mailed warrior; and in the same part of the church is a fine altar-tomb, adorned with the recumbent effigy of Sir Henry Pierrepont, who died in 1615; and a less pretentious monument bearing the effigy of Gervase Pierrepont, Esq., his younger brother. Here, too, was buried the poet Oldham, who died in 1683, to whose memory William, Earl of Kingston, erected a handsome mural monument, with an elegant Latin epitaph, written by the earl himself. The church also contains memorials to Evelyn, second Duke of Kingston, who died in 1773; to Charles, first Earl Manvers, who died in 1816; and to other members of the Pierrepont family; and there is likewise a well-sculptured mural monument by *Flaxman*, in memory of the Rev. William Saltern, Rector of Cotgrave, who died in 1811. Outside the church is a memorial to a loyal French nobleman, "Francis Dort de la Borde, of Mereville and Chessey, in the once flourishing kingdom of France," who was buried here, at his particular request, in 1802.

RADCLIFFE-UPON-TRENT, a large and populous village, lying near the banks of the river about a mile below Holme Pierrepont, is only remarkable for its peculiarly romantic scenery, being partly situated upon a lofty overhanging cliff of red sandstone, from which it takes its name. The church, which has recently

undergone much alteration, formerly contained a very ancient wooden effigy, supposed to represent Stephen de Radcliffe, who lived about the time of Henry III., and who is said to have enlarged or partly rebuilt the church; but early in the present century the loyal inhabitants dressed this figure to represent Bonaparte, and burnt it amidst great rejoicings upon receiving the intelligence of one of the Peninsular victories! Here is a station on the Great Northern line of railway.

SHELFORD, a somewhat pleasantly situated village, occupies a slight rising ground about two miles northward from Radcliffe, and although half a mile distant from the regular channel of the Trent, is occasionally, in times of great floods, completely surrounded by the waters of the river, being backed by a lofty ridge of land to the south. Here was an Austin Priory, built in the time of Henry I. by Ralph de Hanselin, to the honour of the Blessed Virgin; the site of which was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Michael Stanhope, and continues to this day in the hands of his descendants. Some portion of the monastery was converted into a mansion, which was burnt down in the civil wars, having been garrisoned for King Charles and defended by Colonel Philip Stanhope, a younger son of the first Earl of Chesterfield, who was slain when the mansion was taken by storm by the Parliamentary troops. Some years later the mansion was rebuilt, and such part of the old house as had escaped the fire was put into proper repair, and fitted for the occasional residence of its noble owners. Numerous members of the Stanhope family, including the celebrated Earl of Chesterfield, lie buried in the venerable parish church, which contains

several interesting monuments, the most noticeable of which are two altar-tombs in the chancel, one of which bears the effigy of the Lady Anne Stanhope, who died in 1587; a monument to Katherine, wife of the first Earl of Chesterfield, who died in 1636; and a more modern memorial, adorned by a finely sculptured female figure, by *Chantrey*, recording the decease in 1824 of the Lady Georgiana West. Here, too, are several tattered banners, and some pieces of armour, amongst which is a helmet surmounted with the Stanhope crest. The vault of the Stanhope family is on the south side of the chancel, and has the date 1677 above the entrance. Near the village is a curious old almshouse and chapel, founded and endowed by Sir William Stanhope in 1694.

At SAXENDALE, a little village lying about two miles and a half to the south-east of Shelford, there was formerly a church, appropriated to Shelford Priory, but after the dissolution of that monastery the Stanhopes maintained that it was but a chapel-of-ease, and pulled it down to save the expense of a chaplain. The road between Saxendale and Bingham has long been characterised as one of the most picturesque in the vicinity, and there is an old saying that

"The fairest mile within the vale  
Is between Bingham and Saxendale."

BINGHAM, a small market-town, with a population of 7,220 persons, and having a good inn (the Chesterfield Arms), is very pleasantly situated in the fertile vale of Belvoir, at a distance of about ten miles eastward of Nottingham. The town itself, although once of considerable repute for its religious establishment



and collegiate church, is now of but little importance, and is only resorted to by the neighbouring agriculturists for its fairs and markets, and even they are of far less note than in former days. There are now no vestiges of the ancient college or guild of St Mary, nor of the two chapels of St James and St Helen, which existed here until the time of the Reformation. The parish church of All Saints is a large and handsome cruciform structure, whose principal feature is a fine old Early English tower, surmounted by a well-proportioned Decorated spire, which last was somewhat damaged by lightning in 1775. The aisles and transepts were originally Decorated, and date from the fourteenth century, whilst the nave is somewhat older. The window of a small chapel, adjoining the south transept, exhibits the reticulated tracery of the fourteenth century, beneath which are the remains of a sub-light, unequally divided by rude mullions. This has been styled a *locus pœnitentiæ*, and it has been further asserted that the greater offenders were required to crawl through the smaller apertures! It was, however, probably nothing more remarkable than the light of some post-Reformation vault, of which other traces remain connected with the adjacent masonry within. The interior of this church is larger than might have been anticipated from its external appearance, but its original fine proportions were somewhat marred in 1584, when the roof of the nave was unfortunately renewed with one of a far lower pitch, and in a very inferior style. The entire fabric has recently been carefully restored, and owes much to the unwearied exertions of the present rector, the Rev. Canon Miles. At the west end of the south

aisle is the cross-legged effigy of an armed knight, believed to represent Sir Richard de Bingham, lord of this place and patron of the church in the reign of Edward I.; and beneath this effigy are the remains of another, of a later date, apparently of the time of Richard II. The parish boasts of several distinguished incumbents, and in the seventeenth century an Archbishop of Canterbury, a Bishop of Ely, and a Bishop of Bangor were successively Rectors of Bingham. The curfew bell is still regularly rung here. In 1646, Bingham was visited by the plague; and in 1710, the town had a narrow escape from being destroyed by fire by a madman, who for the remainder of his life was confined in a strong cage in the market-place. Bingham is further remarkable as the birth-place of one of the most distinguished statesmen and most impressive orators of our time—the Right Hon. Robert Lowe, whose father was for many years rector of the parish, where his maternal ancestors had resided for several centuries. The Great Northern Railway passes on the northern side of the town, and has a station here.

TITHBY is a very small village occupying an eminence about two miles and a half to the south of Bingham. The church contains a monument to Thomas Chaworth, Esq., who died in 1435, one of whose ancestors acquired this manor about the time of Richard II., and with whose descendants it still remains. About half a mile from Tithby stands

WIVERTON HALL, the seat and property of John Chaworth Musters, Esq., J.P., whose ancestor, Sir Thomas Chaworth, made a park here in the time of Henry IV., in which he built a large and handsome mansion, sufficiently strong to be a garrison for King

Charles in the civil wars, which occasioned its ruin. After the Restoration it was so far dilapidated that most of it was taken down and removed, except the ancient gatehouse, which long remained the solitary memorial of departed grandeur and ancient hospitality. The mansion has, however, recently been restored, and is once more occasionally occupied by its owners. Mrs Musters, the "Mary Chaworth" whose name is immortalised by the muse of Lord Byron, died here in 1832.

LANGAR, a small, well-built, and pleasantly situated village, lying in the vale of Belvoir, between the little river Smithe and the borders of Leicestershire, at a distance of about four miles to the south of Bingham, was formerly the seat of the noble family of Howe. The venerable Hall, which stood closely adjacent to the church, appears to have been much enlarged and improved in the time of Charles II. by John Grubham Howe, Esq., who acquired this estate through his marriage with the illegitimate daughter and coheirress of Emanuel, Earl of Sunderland; and the mansion again underwent very considerable alterations in the last century, when a new front was added, having a fine portico, with a pediment supported by six lofty Ionic columns. About fifty years ago, the present Earl Howe sold the estate to John Wright, Esq., whose son afterwards took down the mansion, divided the park into meadows, and felled the timber. The church, which is principally in the Decorated style of architecture, with some vestiges of Early English work, contains many fine monuments well worthy of notice, particularly the stately altar-tomb of Thomas, tenth Lord Scrope of Bolton, who died in 1609, whose effigy in the robes of a knight of the

Garter, lies beside that of his wife, beneath a richly ornamented canopy, supported by twelve pillars of polished marble. The south aisle was formerly used as the burial-place of the Chaworths of Wiverton, and here are three altar-tombs,—one inscribed to the memory of George Chaworth, Esq., 1521, and the two others, bearing respectively effigies of George Chaworth, Esq., 1558, and of Sir George Chaworth, 1589. There are also more modern memorials, adorned with the busts of Scrope, first Viscount Howe, 1712; and Emanuel Scrope, second Viscount Howe, 1735; and a handsome mural monument to the gallant admiral, Richard, first Earl Howe, who died in 1779, and whose remains lie in the vault beneath. Belonging to this church there is a very curiously embroidered altar-cloth of the seventeenth century, probably of the time of James I., bearing symbolical figures of the twelve tribes of Israel, and other devices skilfully wrought upon puce-coloured cloth.

GRANBY, a somewhat larger village, occupying an eminence overlooking the vale of Belvoir, about two miles to the north-east of Langar, is only remarkable as giving the title of Marquess to the noble family of Manners, in whose hands the manor has remained for more than three hundred years.

ELTON, another small village of but little interest, lies upwards of two miles beyond Granby, at a distance of about four miles and a half east-south-east of Bingham. The Hall, a spacious modern mansion, is now the occasional seat of the Count De Pully, who inherited the estate from the late William Fletcher Norton Norton, Esq. The villagers have a tradition, that during the civil wars of the seventeenth century a

battle was fought in the fields near Elton, and in confirmation of this report several weapons and human remains have been found. In 1780, a large number of silver coins, principally of the reign of Henry II., were discovered in the churchyard.

ORSTON, a large and well-built village, is situated at the foot of a gentle eminence near the banks of the river Smite, about a mile and a half to the north of Elton, and five miles east of Bingham. The parish church of St Mary is a fine old structure, exhibiting several architectural features of more than ordinary interest. The chancel is of the Early English period, whilst the Decorated style predominates in the nave and side aisles; but the tower is a comparatively modern erection, having been rebuilt in 1766. The font, which was "given by Mrs Constantia Kirchevall," in 1662, is worthy of notice as a peculiarly good example of that date. The old wooden roof of the north aisle should likewise be specially noticed. There are several memorials of the Kirchevalls in the south aisle, and at the west end of the north aisle is the recumbent effigy of a lady of the De Roos family, from whom the Dukes of Rutland derive their descent. Midway between the villages of Elton and Orston there is a station on the Great Northern line of railway.

WHATTON, a well-built village, pleasantly situated on the southern side of the river Smite, about three miles to the east of Bingham, has recently been very greatly improved through the exertions of the present lord of the manor, Thomas Dickenson Hall, Esq., J.P., who within the last few years has rebuilt nearly the whole of the farm-houses and cottages in the township, and who, in 1841, erected a fine mansion, in the Elizabethan

style, upon a gentle eminence on the southern side of the village, and made very extensive plantations in the vicinity. The church, which is dedicated to St John of Beverley, and has recently been restored and partly rebuilt, is a cruciform structure, that appears at one time to have been almost entirely of the Early English period, having a fine massive tower partly of Norman work, now surmounted by a Decorated spire of somewhat insufficient altitude. The interior of the edifice has a good Norman arch in the lower part of the tower, and presents several architectural features of interest, but the ancient monuments in the little chapel at the east end of the north aisle will be found the most generally attractive objects of this church. Here is a stone altar-tomb bearing the effigy of Sir Richard de Whatton, who died about the time of Edward II., and a fine alabaster altar-tomb adorned with the effigy of Sir Hugh de Newmarch, who probably died in the reign of Henry IV. Beneath the sepulchral arch of the founder's tomb, at the end of this aisle, lies the effigy of a civilian of the fourteenth century, but it is doubtful whether this figure is really entitled to the honourable position it now occupies. There is likewise another monument—perhaps the most interesting of all—an incised slab, exhibiting the figure of Thomas Cranmer, Esq., the father of the archbishop, who died in 1501.

ASLACTON, noted as the birth-place of Thomas Cranmer, archbishop and martyr, is a pleasant though not remarkably picturesque village, lying on the northern bank of the river Smite, about half a mile nearer to Bingham, having a station on the Great Northern line. Cranmer's ancestors had long ranked amongst the gentry of the county, his great-grand-

father, Edmund Cranmer, having acquired this manor in the reign of Henry VI., through his marriage with the heiress of the ancient family of De Aslacton, and here they had a fine old mansion, in which the Archbishop was born on the 2d of July, in the year 1480. "His life," says a local writer, "reads to us like a sermon on the text, 'God's strength is made perfect in weakness.' We regard the Reformation of our Church as a gift from heaven, but it passed through the hands of men; and we do not value the blessing one iota the less, because we read in the life of a Reformer much of human instability and weakness. Timidity and unfaithfulness are recorded of apostles, and we are warned in a thousand ways never to join in the cry of Lystra, 'The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.' It is true that the whole nation, Convocation, Commons, and all, were at the beck of Henry; it is true that those were times in which men's hearts were hardened by religious intolerance; but to the pure and gentle spirit of Cranmer vice and cruelty, whether of king or subject, must have been alike hateful,—yet he had not the courage to resist. Nothing can justify the fact, that his oath of allegiance to the Pope, though qualified in England, was made without reservation by his proxy at Rome; nor can we defend the divorces of Anne Boleyn and Anne of Cleves, his faithlessness to Cromwell, his acquiescence (to use the mildest term) in the death of Joan Boucher, or, lastly, his recantation. But the infirmities of his life fade and disappear in the glorious lustre of his heroic death, which, martyrdom or not—

'Set forth a deep repentance: nothing in his life  
'Became him like the leaving it;

—and history hath not a nobler scene than that grey-haired man, holding to the hottest flame the hand which had belied his heart, and asking for the mercy which never fails." A modern farm-house now occupies the site of the old manor-house, but some vestiges of the moat and the terrace walks of the gardens may yet be traced. Beyond the moat there is still an artificial mound of considerable height, reputed to have been raised by the Archbishop, and upon which it is said that "he was wont to sit and survey the face of the country, and listen to the tunable bells of Whatton." In the village there was formerly an ancient chapel, some part of which may still be found incorporated with a modern dwelling, which within the last few years served as a common alehouse. Passing through Scarrington, and crossing the Car Dyke, the tourist reaches Car Colston, at a distance of about two miles northward.

CAR COLSTON is a pleasant little village, the houses of which are scattered amidst a profusion of well-grown timber around a fine open green. A considerable portion of this parish was once owned by the ancient family of Thoroton, whose surname was derived from the neighbouring village so called; and here Dr Robert Thoroton, the learned historian of Nottinghamshire, erected for himself a mansion in 1666, some part of which is still standing, and occupied by a tenant-farmer. The parish church is a fine old structure exhibiting considerable remains of Early English architecture. The beautiful chancel, which contains a piscina and triple sedilia worthy of notice, appears to have been rebuilt about the year 1360, in the then prevalent Decorated style. The somewhat peculiar tower was partly rebuilt during the Perpendicular



period, and the low clerestory is a still later addition. Of the Thorotons there are two sepulchral memorials, the one being a tablet to Robert Thoroton, Esq., the grandfather of the historian, who died in 1646; the other being the stone coffin of the historian himself, who died in 1678. This coffin, richly adorned with the arms of Thoroton—a fesse between three hunting-horns—together with the arms of Lovetot, Morin, Boun, and others, was found near to the walls of the church, by some workmen employed in levelling the churchyard, and was removed to the position it now occupies in the chancel. The registers contain numerous entries relative to the Thoroton family, amongst which may be found “Robertus Thoroton, M.D., sepultus Nov. 23, 1678.” No monument was erected to his memory. The parsonage house, a handsome modern mansion in the Elizabethan style, with stone mullioned windows and stone dressings, is now occupied by the Rev. John Chancourt Girardot, incumbent and patron of Car Colston.

At SCREVEYTON, a small village lying between the Roman Fosse and the Car Dyke, about half a mile beyond Car Colston, there was formerly a fine old mansion called Kirketon Hall, successively occupied by the families of Kirketon, Leek, Whalley, and Thoroton, which was taken down about fifty years ago. In this house was born Edward Whalley, believed by some to have been the masked executioner of Charles I. His buff-coat, sword, helmet, and saddle-bags were preserved here for many years, but were sold by public auction for a few shillings upon the demolition of the mansion. The quaint little church, which is dedicated to St Winifred, contains a handsome altar-tomb to Richard Whalley,

Esq., the great-grandfather of Edward, who died in 1583, having had by his three wives no less than twenty-five children, whose effigies appear upon the monument together with those of their parents. Here are also mural monuments to Margaret, wife of Penniston Whalley, Esq., 1675, and to Margaret, daughter and coheiress of that gentleman, and "the entirely loving wife" of the Rev. Thomas Hall, rector of Screveton, 1680; together with several hatchments and floor-stones belonging to the Thoroton family; and above the chancel arch are the royal arms of Charles II. curiously carved in wood and flanked by quaint sculptured figures and other ornamentation. The rectory-house—a small picturesque old cottage with carved barge-boards upon the gables—stands in the churchyard, and affords a striking contrast to the dwellings usually occupied by the beneficed clergy of the present day.

FLINTHAM, a pleasant and well-built village, is situated near to the Fosse, upwards of a mile and a half northward of Screveton. Its spacious but poorly designed church, dedicated to St Augustine, was entirely rebuilt, with the exception of the chancel, in 1827. In the chancel may be seen the mutilated figure of a knight of the fourteenth century, whose shield bears the arms of the family of Hose, once located at this place. Flintham Hall, the seat and property of Thomas Blackborne Thoroton Hildyard, Esq., M.P. (a lineal descendant of the historian of Nottinghamshire), is a spacious and handsome mansion, erected some years ago on the site of a more ancient structure, formerly the residence of the Hose family. It was much improved and beautified by the late Colonel Hildyard, and both the hall and grounds

have recently been very considerably altered by the present proprietor. Surrounding the mansion is a well-timbered park, in which there is an artificial lake of some extent.

KNEVETON (now more commonly called Kneeton), which is situated about a mile and a half to the west of Flintham, at a distance of nearly four miles north of Bingham, occupies an elevated situation upon a lofty precipitous bank on the south side of the river Trent, surrounded by picturesque scenery, and commanding some most beautiful prospects of the vale of Belvoir and the valley of the Trent. The church is a small humble structure, dedicated to St Peter, containing some memorials of the Story family. Near to it Sir Francis Molyneux, Bart., erected a large mansion soon after the Restoration, but the house was not long occupied by the family, and was taken down, in the year 1781, to save the expense of keeping it in repair.

EAST BRIDGEFORD (or Bridgeford-on-the-Hill, as it is not unfrequently called) occupies a somewhat similar situation to that of Kneveton, from which it is about two miles distant. Near this there was formerly a very important Roman station upon the Fosse road, considered by Stukeley to have been *Ad Pontem*, and so called from the ancient bridge which he maintains once spanned the Trent at this point. Horsley does not coincide in this opinion, but regards this place as the *Margidunum* of the sixth Iter of Antoninus, although he does not decide absolutely whether Newark or Southwell occupies the site of the true *Ad Pontem*. Many facts are to be deduced in favour of the latter theory, which is materially strengthened by the circumstances that no vestiges of an ancient bridge have ever been discovered near the

place, nor can any important Roman road be proved to have existed across the Trent valley opposite to East Bridgeford, although an undoubted Roman road leading from the Fosse to the banks of the river yet remains. The discussion of such a question is, however, as far beyond the limits of this work as it would doubtless be unacceptable to the general reader. The site of the old Roman station is near to the Fosse, about a mile southward of the village, and is commonly known as the "Borough Field." Near this many interesting Roman antiquities have been found, and some remains of the ditch and mound of the camp—now called the "Castle Hill"—may yet be traced. Stukeley tells us that he found here the foundations of Roman walls and the floors of houses, composed of stones set edgeways into clay, with liquid mortar run upon them. The modern village is very pleasantly situated upon a steep well-wooded eminence rising abruptly from the southern bank of the Trent, opposite to Gunthorpe Ferry, which here forms the principal means of communication with the opposite side of the river. In the immediate vicinity of the village are several spacious mansions. The old Hall, now the property of John Heathcote Hacker, Esq., was formerly the seat of the Hacker family, and the birth-place of Francis Hacker, who commanded the troops at the execution of King Charles I., and who was executed in 1662. The church has some old armorial glass in the windows, and formerly contained several fine old sepulchral effigies, but most of these have been mutilated or destroyed. In the north aisle may be seen an incised slab bearing figures representing John Hacker, Esq., the grandfather of Francis Hacker, who died in 1620,

with his wife and six children. In this parish is found both opaque and transparent gypsum. The latter, which is exceedingly beautiful, has during the last few years been in great demand amongst the lapidaries of Derbyshire and other places, for manufacture into beads and other ornaments, in which it looks almost as brilliant and richly variegated as the far-famed Derbyshire spar. From East Bridgeford, the tourist may either return to Nottingham by rail from Bingham station on the Great Northern line, which lies about two miles off, or from Lowdham station on the Midland line, which lies beyond Gunthorpe Ferry on the opposite bank of the Trent, at about the same distance from East Bridgeford; or crossing Gunthorpe Ferry, he may proceed by the road passing through Burton Joyce and Carlton, and so over Carlton Hill into Nottingham, but this route entails a walk or drive of upwards of eight miles.

### EXCURSION III.

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*FROM NOTTINGHAM, BY SNEINTON AND COLWICK TO GEDLING AND BURTON JOYCE, AND ALONG THE VALLEY OF THE TRENT TO ROLLESTON, RETURNING TO NOTTINGHAM BY EPPERSTON, CALVERTON, AND LAMBLEY.*

SNEINTON, which so recently as the commencement of the present century was a romantic little country village, with a population of not more than 500 persons, now forms the eastern suburb of the town of Nottingham, with which it is connected by several lines of continuous streets, and at the last census had a population of 12,235 souls. The church, a large but poorly designed structure in the Early English style, was built in 1838, upon the site of a small ancient chapel belonging to the parish church of St Mary, in the adjacent town of Nottingham. Some of the fine old carved oak stalls which were turned out of St Mary's church some years ago, were rescued from destruction by the late incumbent of Sneinton, and now adorn the chancel of Sneinton church. There is a curiously inscribed mural table in the south transept, surmounted by the arms of the Kinder family, and supposed to commemorate the father of Philip Kinder, a somewhat noted poet and dramatist of the seventeenth century; and here, too, are memorials to some of the Lowes, of Highfield, and other families. The Manor-house, a plain old gabled mansion standing near the church, and now occupied by Lieut.-Colonel Davidson, probably dates from about the time of James I. Sneinton Hermitage, on the eastern side of

the village, consists of a long line of perpendicular sandstone rock rising abruptly from the valley of the Trent, along the face of which many grotesque habitations and curious caverns have been excavated. Some of these are of undoubted antiquity, and are sufficiently remarkable to attract the attention of the passing tourist. Many of these old rock-houses are still inhabited, and staircases hewn through the solid rock afford the modern troglodytes of Sneinton Hermitage a means of access to their gardens on the summit of the cliff. Passing in front of these singular dwellings, and proceeding for some little distance along a winding country lane, the tourist reaches Colwick.

COLWICK, a pleasant little village, is situated at the foot of a long wooded range of hills, on the north bank of the river Trent, nearly three miles east of Nottingham. The steep rock at its rear, rising in abrupt precipices, and thickly tufted with overhanging woods, produces a fine effect from every point of view, and renders Colwick one of the most picturesque spots within the reach of the townsfolk of Nottingham. This place is likewise interesting as having once been the seat and property of the noble family of Byron, who acquired the estate through marriage with the heiress of the De Colwick family about the time of Richard II., and resided here until after they had obtained Newstead Abbey, in the reign of Henry VIII. Towards the middle of the seventeenth century, Colwick was sold by the first Lord Byron to Sir James Stonehouse, and eventually became the property of Sir John Musters, the ancestor of the present owner, John Chaworth Musters, Esq. The Hall, a large square modern mansion, surmounted by a lofty clock-tower, and having a handsome pediment in front, supported

by four Ionic pillars, was rebuilt in 1776, from the designs of *Carr*, a somewhat noted Yorkshire architect, upon the site of the ancient seat of the Byrons. In 1831, during the Reform riots which disgraced this part of England, this mansion was visited by a band of miscreants, who forced an entrance into the house, wantonly destroyed the furniture and paintings, and finally attempted to burn down the mansion itself, but in this they were happily unsuccessful. Mrs Musters, the celebrated "Mary Chaworth," was at Colwick Hall at the time, and the terror caused by this daring assault is believed to have greatly accelerated her decease, which took place at Wiverton Hall, in this county, about four months afterwards. In the park may be noticed two old oaks, said to have been planted by the Byrons; and near the house are three remarkably fine oaks, grown from acorns worn by Mrs Musters at a ball given in honour of Lord Howe's victory. The tower and chancel of the parish church, which is a small fabric standing near to the hall, were rebuilt in 1684, by Sir John Musters, who died in 1689, and his monument, surmounted by his bust, may be seen on the east wall of the chancel. On the north side of the chancel is an altar-tomb, surmounted by an incised slab, exhibiting the figures of Sir John Byron, who died in 1576, and of his two wives; and on the opposite side of the chancel stands a more elaborate altar-tomb, adorned with the recumbent effigies of Sir John Byron, who died in 1603, and of Dame Alice his wife. There is also a fine mural monument bearing the effigies of a knight and his lady, kneeling before a fald-stool, and inscribed to Sir John Byron and Dame Mary his wife, both of whom died in 1623,



and to Sir John Byron, their eldest son, who died in 1625. The chancel likewise contains a ponderous monument to John Musters, Esq., who died in 1685, adorned with two life-size figures, well sculptured, but altogether inappropriate to the position they occupy; and on the south side of the altar is a female figure, by *Westmacott*, representing Resignation, and inscribed to the memory of Sophia Catherine, wife of John Musters, Esq., who died in 1809; whilst on the north side of the altar stands another female figure, which, if less finely sculptured, is yet of more interest as a memorial of Mary Anne, wife of John Musters, Esq., and heiress of the ancient family of Chaworth, who died in 1832. The village has long been noted for the making of a thin soft kind of cheese, called Colwick cheese, of which there is a large consumption in the neighbourhood, but which is little known out of Nottinghamshire. A pleasant path, skirting a wood in which may be found a stone marking the spot where a woman, named Saville, was murdered by her husband in 1844, leads from Colwick to Gedling.

GEDLING, a small rural village, lying in a narrow valley fringed with woods, is about four miles east-north-east of Nottingham. The church has a fine Early English chancel, recently restored, and an unusually lofty spire, and contains a curious sepulchral slab, probably of the thirteenth century, bearing the effigy of a priest rudely sculptured in high relief. Gedling Lodge is the occasional residence of the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon; and Gedling House, a substantial modern mansion, is the seat of John Elliott Burnside, Esq. Carlton station, on the Midland line of railway, lies about three quarters of a mile from the village of Gedling.

At **STOKE BARDOLPH**, a little village situated on the banks of the Trent, about two miles to the south-east of Gedling, there formerly stood a fine old castle belonging to the baronial family of Bardolph, but of this only the site is to be found.

**BURTON JOYCE**, so called from the ancient family of Joyce or Joiz, who were lords of this manor until about the time of Richard II., is a considerable village, lying near the river Trent, at the foot of a long range of hills, nearly six miles east-north-east of Nottingham, having a station on the Midland line. The church is dedicated to St Helen, and contains several ancient monuments worthy of inspection. In the north aisle is a sepulchral effigy of an armed knight of the fourteenth century, whose shield is charged with the arms of the family of Joyce; and in the chancel are two incised slabs, underbuilt with masonry so as to form low altar-tombs, exhibiting figures of Sir Brian Stapleton, who died in 1550, and of Alice Roos, who probably died in 1595; and there is also a mural monument to Alice, wife of George Laycock, Gent., who died in 1617. Burton Joyce is supposed to have been a minor Roman station, and upon the side of a hill not far from the village are the remains of a somewhat extensive ancient fortification, consisting of several parallel earthworks.

**LOWDHAM**, a populous village on the banks of a little stream called the Cocker Beck, is situated about two miles to the north-north-east of Burton Joyce, and was once the seat and property of the family of De Lowdham, one of whom became Archbishop of York in the time of Henry III. In the church, which is a venerable fabric with a tower and spire, may be found a cross-legged effigy of a knight

of the De Lowdham family, an old effigy of a priest in his vestments, and several memorials of the Broughton family, who have held this manor since the time of Charles I. Here too is a station on the Midland line of railway.

At GONALSTON, a small village lying at the foot of a hill about a mile beyond Lowdham, the tourist will find a small church dedicated to St Lawrence, which was entirely rebuilt in 1852. Within its walls there are, however, some old sepulchral effigies of the family of De Heriz, worthy of notice. A little beyond the church, upon the hill side, is the Hall, now the seat and property of John Lisle Francklin, Esq., J.P.; and about half a mile from the village, at a place formerly called Bradebusk, are some vestiges of an hospital, founded by William de Heriz, in the time of Henry III.

HOVERINGHAM, which lies upwards of a mile from Gonalston, is picturesquely situated on the banks of the river Trent, immediately opposite the precipitous wooded eminence, crowned by the church and village of Kneveton. The church has recently been rebuilt, and contains a fine alabaster altartomb of the fifteenth century, upon which are the recumbent effigies of Sir Robert de Goushill, and Elizabeth, his wife, who was the widow of Thomas de Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk. Some curious Norman sculpture, representing Michael the archangel in combat with the dragon, found in the old church, has been placed above the principal doorway. Behind the church may be seen the remains of an old cross; and in a field called the "Maiden Croft," not far from the church, there was formerly a chalybeate spring, celebrated for its medicinal vir-

tues. Two miles northward, embowered in trees, lies

BLEASBY, a straggling village, presenting little worthy of note. The church is a small venerable structure, dedicated to St Mary, and containing several plain monuments to the family of Grundy, dating from the seventeenth century. The Hall is the seat and property of Robert Kelham, Esq., J.P. At Bleasby Gate, about half a mile from the village, there is a station on the Midland Railway. Upon an eminence upwards of a mile and a half westward of Bleasby is Thurgarton.

THURGARTON, once famed for its stately Priory of Austin Canons, was founded about the year 1130, in honour of St Peter, by Ralph D'Ayncourt, an ancestor of the powerful and illustrious baronial house of D'Ayncourt, who is said to have given up his own mansion at Thurgarton as a dwelling for the confraternity. The monastery was subsequently enriched by several important benefactions, and became possessed of various rights and privileges, some of which appear to have been of a very peculiar nature. In 1538, the site of this Priory was granted by Henry VIII. to his servant William Cooper, Esq., who converted a portion of the monastery into a residence for himself and his family, and his descendants remained seated here until about fifty years ago, when the property was purchased by the uncle of the present owner, Richard Milward, Esq., J.P. The present mansion was erected in the last century upon the site of the older structure, so that there are now no remains of the old conventual buildings, except the cellars, and the grand old Priory church, which having been devoted to the use of the parish-

ioners at the dissolution of the monastery, still remains in a fine state of preservation, and is an object of more than ordinary interest, having been built in the purest epoch of Gothic architecture, and not being defaced with late and incongruous additions. The tower is a particularly fine specimen of the Early English style, and in conjunction with the western front has an imposing and beautiful appearance, worthy of the former importance of the structure. The interior presents a solidity and grandeur of expression not to be found in ordinary parish churches, and this effect is greatly enhanced by the massive piers and arches dividing the nave from the side aisles. The aisle windows are very good examples of Geometrical tracery; and the east window of the chancel is divided into two compartments with traceried heads, and has a circular light in the spandril above, whilst the space between the compartments is occupied by a beautiful niche, with a most delicately carved canopy. The altar is formed of an old altar-slab, found beneath the pavement of the church, now supported on short columns of polished marble. The entire fabric owes much to the liberality of Richard Milward, Esq., who, at great outlay, put it into a state of thorough repair a few years ago. In the chancel are the remains of several sepulchral slabs of early date, and in the north aisle are some memorials to the family of Cooper. The Midland Railway passes near Thurgarton, and there is a station at a short distance from the village.

Three miles beyond Thurgarton is FISKERTON, where there is likewise a station on the Midland Railway, and where in olden times there was a cell, founded by Ralph D'Ayncourt, and supplied

with Black Canons from Thurgarton Priory, but of which not a vestige remains.

At ROLLESTON, which is about a mile beyond Fiskerton, there is another station on the Midland Railway, and here too is the junction with the Southwell and Mansfield branch. The church, which stands near to the Railway Station, is a fine old edifice with a square pinnaced tower. Here was once a mansion belonging to a branch of the Nevile family.

At HALLOUGHTON, a little village occupying an eminence upwards of a mile and a half northward of Thurgarton, is a gloomy old mansion, reputed to have once been a nunnery attached to Thurgarton Priory. In making some alterations on this house about a century ago, the secret entrance to a subterraneous passage was discovered, and this passage was traced to a considerable length in the direction of Thurgarton, thus partly confirming the old tradition of a private communication existing between the monastery and the nunnery. It is further remarkable, that in taking down a stack of chimneys in this same house, there was found in the middle of them a large recess, completely filled with human skeletons, by far the greater number of which were those of young infants.

EPPERSTON, a pleasant and well-built village, lies about two miles and a half to the west of Thurgarton, in the valley of the little river Dover Beck, surrounded by picturesquely undulating country, richly wooded, and affording varied and beautiful prospects. The church, dedicated to the Holy Cross, is a time-honoured edifice, with a small tower and spire. Here may have been a minor Roman station, as upwards of

a thousand coins, chiefly of the later Roman emperors, were found near the village in 1776.

OXTON, a somewhat larger village, lying on the eastern side of the Dover Beck, sheltered by several lofty hills, is upwards of three miles to the north-north-west of Epperston. The Hall, which is a good modern mansion standing on the eastern side of the village, near to the Southwell road, is the seat of Henry Porter Sherbrooke, Esq., J.P., whose ancestors have had an estate here since the time of Edward VI. The church is a small old fabric with a low tower, but contains nothing worthy of note. On the summit of an eminence on Oxton Forest, nearly a mile and a half to the north of the village, are three tumuli, the largest of which was opened some years ago by the late Major Rooke, an eminent local archæologist, who found in it an urn made of iron, containing ashes and burned bones; a large sword in a wooden scabbard, broken in several pieces; two daggers or small swords; and fifteen beads of blue, yellow, and green glass. On Combes Hill, about a mile farther northward, are the remains of a Roman encampment, and some remains of another encampment may be found on Grave's Hill, nearly a mile westward.

CALVERTON, which is a populous village, situated in a narrow valley one mile a half south-west of Oxton, and seven miles north-north-east of Nottingham, is remarkable as the birth-place of the Rev. William Lee, the inventor of the stocking-frame, in the time of Queen Elizabeth. Deering says that he was heir to a pretty freehold estate here, and being deeply in love with a young lady, to whom he paid his addresses, but whom he always found too intent upon her knitting to hear his vows and protestations,

he was induced to contrive a machine which should render the mode of knitting by hand entirely useless. It is, however, stated with more apparent probability, that Lee was a poor curate, with a large family, and his wife, being obliged to occupy herself with knitting, which interfered much with the attention necessary to her household, he was prompted to attempt the invention of the complex yet simple machine with which his name is associated. Either he or his brother exhibited the loom before Queen Elizabeth; but his invention being despised in his own country, he went to France, where he was patronised by Henry IV., but the murder of that monarch having overthrown all his hope of success, he died in Paris of grief and vexation, and probably in great poverty, about the year 1611. The church, dedicated to St Wilfrid, was rebuilt about a century ago, upon the site of an ancient and dilapidated structure. The parochial registers contain several interesting entries relative to the Lee family.

WOODBOROUGH lies about a mile southward of Calverton, and has a fine old church, dedicated to St Swithin, in which may be found some remains of old painted glass, and several memorials to the families of Laycock and Bainbridge. The Hall, a large plain old building, formerly the residence of a branch of the Strelley family, and subsequently of the Laycocks and Bainbridges, is now the property of Mansfield Parkyns, Esq. At Woodborough there also once resided a family, named Jebb, from whom sprang Dr Samuel Jebb, Dr John Jebb, and Sir Richard Jebb, Bart., three eminent medical writers, and Dr John Jebb, the learned and eloquent Bishop of Limerick.

Upwards of a mile and three quarters farther south-



ward is LAMBLEY, an irregularly built village, situated at the head of a deep valley sheltered by an amphitheatre of hills, seven miles north-east of Nottingham. Here is a small old church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, possessing an interesting hagioscope worthy of inspection. Lambley Dumbles, a fertile and picturesque vale watered by the Cocker Beck, is the scene of an annual festival on "Cowslip Sunday," largely frequented by the lower orders of the townsfolk of Nottingham, who, should the day prove fine, occasionally assemble here to the number of several thousands.

Perhaps the pleasantest walk from Lambley back into Nottingham is to pass along the Dumbles and enter the Woodborough road a little beyond Middle Beck. This road runs for several miles along an elevated plateau, known as "The Plains," commanding fine prospects of the surrounding country on every side. The pedestrian should leave the Woodborough road at the top of the Mapperley Hills, turning to the left down a narrow lane, passing near the Coppice and by St Ann's Well, and so directly into Nottingham.

## EXCURSION IV.

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*FROM NOTTINGHAM TO BESTWOOD PARK AND  
NEWSTEAD ABBEY, THROUGH PAPPLEWICK  
AND HUCKNALL TORKARD, RETURNING TO  
NOTTINGHAM BY THE VALLEY OF THE LEEN  
THROUGH BULWELL, BASFORD, ETC.*

LEAVING Nottingham by the high road leading to Mansfield, and passing through the populous modern districts, known as Carrington, Mapperley, and Sherwood, which are mainly composed of detached villa residences occupied by the merchants and manufacturers of Nottingham, and turning to the right a little beyond the hamlet of Daybrook, the tourist reaches ARNOLD. This is a large manufacturing village, pleasantly situated in a narrow valley at the foot of several lofty eminences, at a distance of about four miles to the north of Nottingham. The venerable parish church, which is dedicated to St Mary, is a structure of considerable interest, exhibiting various styles of architecture, the oldest part being the north aisle, which is in the latest style of Early English, prevalent about the year 1270. The nave and south aisle are in the Decorated style, as is also the chancel, though of somewhat later date. The present tower does not date from an earlier period than the middle of the fifteenth century, although from certain indications at the base there seems originally to have been a tower of the same date as the nave and south aisle. Within the chancel are the remains of an Easter sepulchre, the founder's tomb, a remarkable double

piscina, and an unusually fine triple sedilia. There are also several mural monuments, amongst which should be noticed one bearing a curious epitaph in memory of the Rev. John Parsons, vicar of Arnold, who died in 1769, and whose father, Sir William Parsons, Bart., of Stanton-on-the-Wolds, was also buried here in 1760. About two miles beyond Arnold, on Holly Hill, the highest ground for many miles round, may be found very evident vestiges of an important Roman encampment, which, from its commanding situation and unusual extent, may be believed to have been the principal fortification in this district. Westward of Arnold lies Bestwood.

BESTWOOD PARK, the property of His Grace the Duke of St Albans, once occupied several wild and broken ridges of Sherwood Forest, but now, being almost entirely under cultivation, it forms a fine oval of arable farms, comprising in all about 3,700 acres of land, environed by a buck-leap, the greater part of which still remains. Bestwood, as part of the royal forest of Sherwood, was long in the hands of the Crown, and was an open hay or wood until the time of Edward III., when it was emparked by that monarch, who caused a hunting-lodge to be built here, which was not unfrequently resorted to by him and his successors, who came here to enjoy the sports of the chase. About the year 1683, Charles II. gave Bestwood Park to Charles Beauclerk (his natural son by the notorious Nell Gwynne), whom he raised about the same time to the Dukedom of St Albans, having previously ennobled him in 1676, by the titles of Baron Hedington and Earl of Burford, and the estate has ever since remained in the possession of that nobleman's descendants. Towards the latter end of

the seventeenth century some small detached portions of Bestwood Park were enclosed and cultivated; and much of the old timber was felled; but a considerable extent of open forest ground remained until about the year 1785, when the deer were destroyed, and most of the land was broken up and applied to agricultural purposes by a Norfolk farmer named Barton, who obtained a lease of the estate from the then Duke of St Albans, and brought a whole colony of labourers from his own county to cultivate what had for so many centuries been one of the wildest and most barren tracts of Sherwood Forest. The present Duke has recently erected, upon the site formerly occupied by the old hunting-lodge, a spacious and handsome mansion of red brick with stone dressings, in the style of the fifteenth century, which from its elevated situation forms a conspicuous object throughout the surrounding country. The exterior of this noble mansion is enriched with much fine carving illustrating some of the time-honoured legends of "Merrie Sherwood;" whilst in the interior are many spacious apartments, amongst which the great hall, with its open timbered roof and fine stone gallery, and the servant's hall, which has a gallery at one end, an open timbered roof, and carved oak panelling around the walls, are more especially remarkable. The house contains some good paintings, chiefly family portraits. The gardens, although very tastefully planned, are yet in their infancy, and a few more years' growth will be requisite before the extensive surrounding plantations entirely remove that somewhat bleak and naked aspect which now characterises Bestwood Park. Near the mansion is a pretty little church, likewise erected by the present Duke, the interior decorations

of which are worthy of inspection. In the churchyard, beneath the western wall of the church, lie the remains of the late lamented Duchess of St Albans, to whom there is a handsome memorial on the western gable, surmounted by a fine mosaic of the Resurrection, whilst within the church is a very beautiful medallion bust of Her Grace, executed by Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise. The five small painted windows at the back of the altar were executed by the late Duchess as a memorial of her father, General the Hon. Charles Grey, who died in 1866; whilst the two other painted windows at the opposite end of the church were erected in memory of the Duchess herself, by the Dowager Duchess of St Albans, and by Mrs Webb, of Newstead Abbey.

Returning to the main road, and proceeding for some little distance in the direction of Mansfield, the tourist reaches, at the foot of the Red Hill, a quaint old gabled structure, commonly known as "the Guide House;" for in the days when the whole country between Nottingham and Mansfield was occupied by one vast continuous forest, broken only here and there by small open patches of fern or heather, the high road from this point was reduced to nothing more than a series of doubtful and uncertain paths, winding amongst the trees as best they could, and here guides were regularly maintained to conduct travellers on their journey. About two miles beyond "the Guide House" is Sherwood Lodge, a large plain brick mansion, built towards the close of the last century by Colonel Henry Coape, and now the seat and property of Charles Seeley, jun., Esq., J.P. The scenery here becomes wilder, and although now almost

entirely under cultivation, the country still presents many evident traces of its former woodland condition. At a distance of rather less than ten miles from the town of Nottingham, and somewhat more than four miles from Mansfield, stands the Hutt, once a noted road-side hostelry, but now the residence of the Rev. Curtis Jackson, the chaplain of Newstead Abbey; and almost immediately opposite are the great gates of the Abbey domain, guarded by the "Pilgrim Oak," a magnificent tree still in its prime, the sole survivor of a whole forest of stately oaks felled about a century ago by the fifth Lord Byron, by whom this sylvan giant was sold to some of the townsmen of Mansfield, whose good taste prompted them to rescue it from destruction. Passing through this gateway and entering the deer-park, once of far wider extent than at present, but even now spreading over a very considerable area, woodland scenes of rare and wild beauty successively present themselves, under the most striking and varied effects of light and shade, until at length the broad drive sweeping round to the left commands a more extensive and still more beautiful prospect. Looking over a foreground of bracken and heather, beyond yellow hillocks, dotted here and there with rabbit-burrows, and again over green slopes, crowned with twisted thorns and stag-headed oaks, the eye rests upon a dense dark mass of venerable timber, beyond which sparkle the waters of the great lake, and embosomed in that woody declivity lies the famous abbey of Newstead.

NEWSTEAD ABBEY, now the seat of William Frederick Webb, Esq., was once the abode of a pious and charitable confraternity whose doors were never closed to the wayfarer or the poor; in later

times the hospitable mansion of a noble line of gallant soldiers, and no less loyal subjects; and lastly the home of one whose genius added lustre to his rank, and whose association with Newstead has added tenfold to the interest of that venerable pile. The monastery itself, which, although now invariably designated as Newstead Abbey, was never actually more than a Priory of Black Canons of the order of St Augustine, was founded in 1170 by Henry II., in honour of God and of the Virgin Mary, and according to a somewhat doubtful tradition, was built by that monarch in expiation of the murder of Thomas A'Becket. At the dissolution of religious houses, Newstead was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir John Byron, of Colwick, who then held the office of lieutenant of the forest of Sherwood. "The antiquity of the Byrons," says Shirley, "is proved by their ancestor, Ralph de Buron, occurring as a considerable landowner *in capite* in Domesday Book, in the counties of Nottingham and Derby. Horestan Castle, in the latter county, was at a very early period their principal seat; but in the reign of John, by the marriage of Robert de Buron and Cecilia de Clayton, the lordship of Clayton, in Lancashire, became the residence of the family." However, towards the close of the fourteenth century, the Byrons returned into Nottinghamshire, having acquired a good estate, together with an ancient seat at Colwick, near Nottingham, through the marriage of Sir Richard de Byron with the heiress of the family of De Colwick, and here they continued to reside for nearly three centuries. Not long after his acquisition of the Newstead estate in 1540, Sir John Byron, who appears to have been better known in his day by the

*soubriquet* of "Little Sir John with the great beard," converted the conventual buildings into a stately mansion, and it does not seem that any important part of the monastery was dismantled, with the exception of the great Priory church, the south aisle of which was incorporated with the mansion, whilst the remainder was suffered to fall into dilapidation, and gradually became the picturesque and venerable ruin which now forms one of the most beautiful features of the Abbey. During the civil wars of the seventeenth century, Sir John Byron, a brave and devoted Royalist, raised a regiment of horse at his own expense, and garrisoned Newstead for the king, in reward for which faithful service he was advanced to the peerage in 1643, by the title of Baron Byron of Rochdale. Newstead suffered much at the hands of the fifth Lord Byron (the immediate predecessor of the poet), who felled nearly all the old timber, destroyed the fine herds of deer, divided the park into farms, and, in short, denuded the estate of everything that he could. In his time, the gardens were neglected and overgrown with trees and weeds, the lake was half-choked with mud, and the house falling to decay with damp lichens spreading over its walls. The buildings on the eastern side of the great quadrangle were unroofed and almost in ruins; the old refectory and the guest-chamber of the monks were converted into barns and filled with hay; whilst the entrance-hall and the monks' parlour were degraded to stables for cattle. In the only habitable part of the building, a place then used as a sort of scullery, under the only roof of all this vast pile that kept out the rain, the fifth Lord breathed his last; and to this inheritance the poet succeeded. With the sixth Lord Byron the interest of this grand



old mansion culminates, and with him the connection between Newstead and the Byrons ended. The story of his life and brilliant genius is too widely known to be here repeated, and the tourist need only be very briefly reminded of some of the leading incidents connected with his residence at Newstead. He was born in London in 1788; his father being Captain John Byron, nephew of the fifth Lord Byron, and his mother the only daughter and heiress of George Gordon, Esq., of Gight, in Scotland, who was lineally descended from the Earl of Huntly and the Princess Jane Stuart, a daughter of James I. of Scotland. His father died in 1791, and for the first few years of his life Byron resided with his mother in Aberdeen, where they subsisted on a poor pittance of about £150 per annum, the wreck of a large fortune inherited by Mrs Byron, the whole of which had been wasted by the riot and profligacy of her abandoned husband; but in the summer of 1798 he came to England, on the decease of his great-uncle, to take possession of the ancient patrimony of his family. In 1801, Lord Byron was sent to complete his education at Harrow, and about this time his mother took up her residence in Nottingham, where she was joined by her son during his scholastic vacations. Newstead was then let to Lord Grey de Ruthyn, and an intimacy having sprung up between Byron and his noble tenant, an apartment in the Abbey was from thenceforth always at his command; and it was during some of these visits to Newstead that he wrote many of the poems, contained in the small volume entitled "Hours of Idleness," which first appeared about the close of 1806. It was not, however, until the autumn of 1808 that Lord Byron actually took up his residence

at Newstead, which about this time underwent a partial renovation under his own personal supervision. "Unfortunately," as a recent writer has remarked, "the embellishments which the Abbey received from the poet-lord had more of the brilliant conception of the poet in them than of the sober calculations of common life." In many rooms which he had superbly furnished he had permitted so wretched a roof to remain, that in half a dozen years the rain had visited his proudest chambers, the paper had rotted on the walls, the ceilings had fallen, and the damp had ruined rich carpets and canopies and costly furniture, and had sorely dimmed the lustre of gorgeous heraldic devices and glittering coronets. His life at Newstead was characterised by that ungoverned license and strange eccentricity, which, more or less, predominated throughout the whole course of his eventful career. He filled the house with troops of boon companions, who, in quaint mockery of the ancient inmates of this once hallowed fane, clad themselves in the habits of monks and friars, and whose wild unbridled orgies are still spoken of with awe by the neighbouring peasantry. In the summer of 1809 Lord Byron quitted England, and remained on the Continent for about two years, returning to Newstead in 1811. His affairs had by this time become deeply and even hopelessly involved, and in 1813 the Newstead estate, which had been possessed by the Byron family for nearly three hundred years, was actually brought to the hammer, but was not sold, only £90,000 being offered for it. The estate was, however, shortly afterwards sold, by private contract, to Thomas Claughton, Esq., for £140,000; but that gentleman, either repenting of his bargain or unable to complete his purchase, paid a forfeit of

£25,000, and relinquished the property; but even this unexpected aid to Lord Byron's falling fortunes proved unavailing, and did little to impede the final catastrophe. Early in 1814, his Lordship again visited Newstead, and during the autumn of the same year he paid his last visit to the home of his ancestors. His marriage with the only daughter and heiress of Sir Ralph Milbank Noel, Bart., took place in January 1815; his wife separated from him about a year later; and in April 1816 he, for the last time, took leave of his native country. The condition of Newstead was now deplorable, in consequence of a sale, under an execution, of the greater part of the furniture; and not long after this the estate had a narrow escape from falling into the hands of one whose only object in acquiring it was to merge it in his own vast domain, and pull down the Abbey. Fortunately, another destiny awaited it, and in 1818 it was purchased, for £95,000, by Colonel Thomas Wildman, who expended as much more in its restoration, and under his care it reached a state of splendour scarce surpassed even in its best days. Colonel Wildman not only raised Newstead Abbey from ruin, but was careful to preserve the antique character of the place, and to treat with the utmost respect all the associations connected with it. The Colonel and Lord Byron had been old school-fellows at Harrow, and the latter expressed in no measured terms his satisfaction that the place which had cost him "more than words to part with" should have fallen into such hands. It has been said of Lord Byron "that he was prouder of being descended from those Byrons of Normandy, who accompanied William the Conqueror into England, than of having been the author of *Childe Harold* and

*Manfred*, and the pain that he endured at being thus compelled to alienate a venerable mansion, which had so long been identified with those ancestors of whom he was so justly proud, must have been bitter indeed. The close of Lord Byron's life was spent in aiding the unfortunate Greeks in their struggle to regain their ancient freedom, and his death occurred at Missolonghi, in Western Greece, on the 19th of April 1824. His body was brought to England, and on the 16th of July following was laid to rest in the family vault at Hucknall Torkard, about three miles from Newstead Abbey. Colonel Wildman died at Newstead in 1859, leaving no children, and in 1861 the estate was purchased from his executors by William Frederick Webb, Esq., the present owner, under whom the renovation of the Abbey may be said to have been completed.

Such being the leading incidents relating to Newstead, it only remains to notice the mansion itself. The most striking external feature of the Abbey is the ruined western front of the conventual church, an exceedingly beautiful example of the Early English style, scarcely equalled by any other specimen in elegance of composition and delicacy of execution. An effigy of the blessed Virgin, to whom the monastery was dedicated, still adorns a canopied niche above the great west window, the tracery of which is said to have been thrown down some forty years ago by an earthquake, and several horizontal fissures in the walls are pointed out as having likewise been produced by the effects of the same unusual phenomenon. The front of the inhabited portion of the house extends along on a line with the western wall of the church, and on this side of the mansion is the

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principal entrance, opening into a low vaulted crypt resting on pillars; and beyond this is the monks' parlour, in which is deposited the visitors' book, containing an interesting collection of autographs of persons who, since the decease of Lord Byron, have visited the Abbey from all parts of the world. The dining-hall, once the refectory of the monastery, is a noble apartment, panelled with oak, with a fine open timbered roof, springing from corbels richly emblazoned with armorial bearings, and having at one end a richly carved oak screen, divided into three compartments, above which is a music gallery. The walls are profusely adorned with suits of ancient and modern armour, trophies of weapons, stags' antlers, and heraldic banners; whilst round the sides are mailed arms, supporting candelabra. Here, too, is seen the high projecting chimney-piece, beneath which such a fire was kindled on the first night of Byron's arrival at Newstead in 1808, that the safety of the Abbey was endangered. On that occasion a group of heedless dependants caroused in the centre of the hall, while their young lord, breaking shreds from the neglected hearth, showed the precision of his aim by scaring the bats from the half-ruined timber roof, reddened with the blaze below. It is indeed difficult to realise such a scene in the present gorgeous apartment. From the old refectory a winding staircase leads to the prior's lodgings, one room of which was Byron's sleeping chamber. In this room every article of furniture has remained in the same state and position as left by the poet; and there is a melancholy interest in such identity. A heavy bedstead, surmounted by gilded coronets, occupies the centre; whilst several views of Cambridge, and portraits of his lord-

ship's favourite valet, Murray, and of "Gentleman Jackson" the pugilist, hang upon the faded paper of the walls; and before an oriel window, commanding a charming prospect of the lake and the surrounding woods, stands his writing-table, upon which even his inkstand may yet be seen. But it must be confessed that, were this room not Byron's, the visitor would only be tempted to wonder how an apartment so unattractive, and so utterly wanting in all that is picturesque, could be found in such a mansion as Newstead Abbey, yet it serves to indicate the manner in which old houses used to be ruthlessly deprived of all that was antique and adapted to modern ideas, until the introduction of that better taste which now happily prevails. Adjoining this apartment is another, fitted up in much the same style, which was occupied by his lordship's page. This latter room enjoys the reputation of being haunted, and this belief was even fostered by Byron himself, who is said to have given currency to all the superstitious reports connected with the Abbey, by professing to believe them. A small doorway near here opens out on the flat leaded roofs of some of the lower apartments, and from this point a good view of the interior of the quadrangle, and the quaint old stone fountain which it encloses, may be obtained. In another part of the mansion is Lord Byron's private dining-room, a small apartment having a richly emblazoned ceiling, and a grand old sculptured chimney-piece, dating from the sixteenth century, adorned with the armorial bearings of the Byron family, and numerous well-carved heads, amongst which may be noticed those of Henry VIII. with two of his wives or mistresses. In this room are likewise some curious tapestried chairs, and several paintings,

one of which is reputed to be the finest specimen of *John Van Eyck* in England. The library is a long, narrow apartment, luxuriously furnished, containing a large collection of books and some good paintings, including an old portrait of Sir John Byron, the first lay proprietor of Newstead Abbey; portraits of the Earl and Countess of Rutland, Nell Gwynne, and Mrs Hughes, the dramatist, all by *Sir Peter Lely*; and a good portrait of the late Colonel Wildman, by *Lonsdale*. The saloon, which is the largest and the most magnificent apartment in the mansion, contains several very beautiful cabinets and other costly articles of furniture, and an inlaid table of great value. Conspicuous amongst the many fine pictures which adorn the walls, is a large portrait of His Royal Highness the late Duke of Sussex, in his robes as a Knight of the Garter, by *Lonsdale*, and the celebrated portrait of Lord Byron, by *Philips*. Here, too, is a fine portrait of the Earl of Arundel, by *Vandyck*; portraits of William III., George I., the Princess Dowager of Wales (mother of George III.), George II., and George III., by various artists; a good portrait of Sir Hildebrand Oaks, by *Russell*; a grand painting of a stag-hunt, by *Oudry*; a portrait of Lord Heniker, and another of Thomas Wildman, Esq. (the father of the late Colonel Wildman), both by *Romney*; a picture of two young females and a child, supposed to be by *Vandyck*; portraits of Colonel Wildman, by *Philips*, and Mrs Wildman, by *Lonsdale*; and a portrait of Edward Wildman, Esq., by *Russell*; together with several fine portraits of the family of the present possessor of Newstead Abbey. The tapestry bedroom, the ceiling of which is richly emblazoned with the Byron arms, whilst the walls are hung with choice tapestry,

contains an old state bed, surmounted with ostrich plumes and draped with costly old French silk tapestry; and here too are portraits of Charles II. and his mother, Queen Henrietta Maria. The tapestry dressing-room is adorned with still finer tapestry, and here should be noticed the fine portrait of Sarah, the celebrated Duchess of Marlborough, reputed to be by *Sir Peter Lely*. In King Edward the Third's bedroom,—a richly panelled apartment, having a well-carved mantle-piece, representing the heads of Saracens and other devices,—is a beautiful old cabinet, inlaid with plate-glass mirrors, a toilette-table covered with glass, and several other articles, said to have been once the personal property of Queen Elizabeth. King Henry the Seventh's lodgings, now called the Duke of Sussex's bedroom, possesses some very rich tapestry, and has an antique sculptured chimney-piece worthy of notice. The tourist need hardly be told that Newstead possesses a ghost, and the poet lord himself is said to have firmly believed that upon one occasion he saw the apparition of the Black Friar, who, ever since the monastery has been in lay hands, is said to have haunted the building, weeping and wringing his hands before the birth of an heir, and rejoicing at the approach of death or misfortune to any of the Byron family, and whose spirit, according to popular belief, will continue to haunt the Abbey until his brethren regain possession of their cloisters. Several interesting relics of Lord Byron are preserved in one of the corridors, but the skull which he converted into a ghastly drinking-cup is no longer amongst them, having been reinterred within the precincts of the Abbey a few years ago. The chapel, which is adorned with a fine window of painted glass



erected in memory of the late Colonel Wildman, is a very beautiful structure, originally the chapter-house of the monastery. During Lord Byron's time the chapel was almost in ruins, and it is said that at one time it was degraded to a dog-kennel ; but the late Colonel Wildman carefully restored the building, which has since been richly and appropriately decorated by Mr Webb, and divine service is now regularly performed therein. Adjoining the chapel are the cloisters, running around the interior court, and near the entrance to the chapel may be seen the gloomy vault, believed to have been originally constructed as a lavatory in which to wash the dead bodies of the monks previous to their interment, but which in later days was converted by Lord Byron into a swimming bath. From the cloisters is a passage leading into an ancient crypt, extending under a part of the great conventual church, and now converted into cellars. Passing out into the pleasure-grounds, the first object of attraction is the large square tomb, built by Lord Byron over the remains of his faithful dog "Boatswain," and beneath which he himself desired to be interred, without any ceremony or burial-service whatever, saying that such a proceeding " would, at least, prevent trouble and expense;" and adding that, although it would be of little consequence to him, it might quiet the conscience of his executors to know that the spot which he had selected was consecrated ground. The garden is flanked on one side by a long raised terrace, with stone balustrades, near to which is a square stew-pond, probably as old as the monastery itself, skirted by a thick grove of trees, in the recesses of which are two large old statues of Pan and a female Satyr, much defaced by time, and looked upon by the country

people as "the old lord's devils." The tree, upon which Byron carved his name with that of his sister, still remains; but the names have been carefully removed, and are now placed within the mansion for their better preservation. During the lifetime of the fifth Lord Byron, a large brass eagle, forming a lectern, and three brass candlesticks, were found in the lake before the Abbey, into which they had doubtless been thrown for concealment by the monks, when their establishment was sacked, and it is not improbable that some other relics of the monastery may still lie beneath the waters. The eagle and candelabra were purchased at a sale of the old lord's effects by a watchmaker of Nottingham, from whom they passed into the hands of the late Sir Richard Kay, who presented them to Southwell Minster. In cleansing this eagle some few years after its discovery, a secret aperture was found, in which had been deposited several deeds and grants of the time of Edward III. and Henry VIII, together with certain immunities from Rome granted to the monks of Newstead. On the lake there was formerly a frigate, which the fifth lord had built for him at considerable expense at some seaport on the eastern coast, and being conveyed on wheels over the forest to Newstead, was supposed to have fulfilled one of the prophecies of Mother Shipton, which declared that "when a ship laden with ling should cross over Sherwood Forest, the Newstead estate would pass from the Byron family;" and in order to bear out Mother Shipton, and to spite the old lord, the country people, it is said, ran along by the side of the vessel, heaping it with heather and ling. Evelyn, who visited Newstead in 1654, says of it—"It is situated much like Fontainebleau, in France,

capable of being made a noble seat, accommodated as it is with brave woods and streams." Newstead is not now the show-place that it was some years ago, but the privilege of seeing the mansion is rarely denied to those tourists who make a special application for the same. Perhaps the readiest way of reaching Newstead, either from Nottingham or Mansfield, is by road; but at Lynby, only two or three miles from the Abbey, there is a station on the Nottingham and Mansfield branch of the Midland Railway, and at a distance of not more than a mile and a half there is a private station on the same branch, where passengers may alight by permission of Mr Webb.

Leaving the Newstead domain by the principal lodge, and turning to the right by the road which skirts the southern boundary of the park, and proceeding for about a mile and a half amidst wild and picturesque forest scenery, the tourist reaches the little village of

PAPPLEWICK, which lies shrouded in verdure, upon a somewhat elevated plateau, on the eastern bank of the river Leen, here noted for its trout. The church was entirely rebuilt, with the exception of the tower, in 1795, in the pseudo-Gothic of that period, but the beauty of its situation amply atones for the inferiority of its architecture. Within its walls may be found several ancient incised slabs, of great interest to the archæologist, and there are also some curious pieces of old painted glass, and various modern memorials of the Montagu family. A fine old yew-tree of considerable antiquity stands in the churchyard, and near to the church is the Hall, a large square stone mansion rebuilt in 1787 by the Right Hon. Frederic Montagu,

and now the property of Andrew Montagu, Esq., and the residence of Henry Fraser Walter, Esq. Not far from the hall is a cave, called "Robin Hood's stable," carefully hewn out of the sandstone rock, and certainly exhibiting every appearance of having been designed for the accommodation of horses and fodder. About a mile southward of Papplewick is

LYNBY, so called from its situation upon the river Leen, a picturesque little village, which attracted the especial attention of the American traveller, Washington Irving, who says, "The moss-grown cottages, the lowly mansions of grey stone, the Gothic crosses at each end of the village, and the tall May-pole in the centre, transport us in imagination to former centuries." The two venerable crosses yet remain, one of them having recently been restored and partly rebuilt at the expense of the present squire and rector; but the lofty May-pole—so long the pride and boast of the villagers—was blown down only a few months ago, and has not, unfortunately, been replaced; whilst the numerous collieries which have been commenced in the vicinity, threaten soon to destroy the quiet beauty of this hitherto secluded spot. The church dates mainly from the fourteenth century, and contains several old mural monuments, one of which remembers George Chaworth, Esq., 1557, and Mary, his wife, daughter of Sir Henry Sacheverell, 1572. Here was also a fine altar-tomb to one of the Strelley family, but, being turned out of the church to make way for some modern innovations, it was soon demolished by sacrilegious hands. The south porch, which is adorned with the arms of the Strelleys and other families, is a fair specimen of the later Perpendicular style, and has a curious hagioscope in the north-eastern angle, the

original use for which it is very difficult to determine. Near the church there is a station on the Mansfield branch of the Midland Railway.

HUCKNALL TORKARD, which is so called from the ancient family of De Torkard, who had their mansion here, is a very populous and rapidly increasing village, owing its prosperity to the neighbouring collieries, lying about a mile southward of Lynby. Here also the Midland Railway has a station. The venerable parish church, so widely known and so frequently visited as the burial-place of one of the greatest of England's poets, is dedicated in honour of the apostle, St James, and occupies a slightly elevated situation towards the southern extremity of the village. For many years past this church remained in a state of almost ruinous dilapidation, but mainly through the exertions of the present vicar, the Rev. George Otter, a considerable sum of money was collected and expended in a thorough restoration of the fabric, which has only recently been completed. The lower part of the tower, which exhibits evident proofs of late Norman work, is the oldest portion of the structure, and dates from the commencement of the twelfth century. The nave and chancel, together with the upper stage of the tower, are in the Decorated style of the time of Edward III.; the north aisle, with its eastern chapel, are in the Perpendicular style, dating from the fifteenth century; whilst the south aisle is a recent addition. The interior of the church now presents a very striking contrast to its neglected and dilapidated appearance of former years, although much yet remains to be added in the shape of stained glass and other embellishments. The Byron vault is towards the eastern end of the chancel, and within it repose

all that was mortal of the poet and many of his ancestors. The vault is remarkably small and inconvenient, and is constructed at the foot of a short flight of stone steps, concealed beneath the pavement of the chancel; and the coffin of the poet, which rests upon others, lies almost in a line with the priest's door, and is not more than three feet below the pavement. His monument consists of a simple tablet of white marble, placed upon the south wall of the chancel, and thus inscribed—

“In the vault beneath,  
where many of his ancestors and his mother are buried,  
lie the remains of

GEORGE GORDON NOEL BYRON,  
Lord Byron, of Rochdale,  
in the county of Lancaster,  
the author of ‘Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage.’

He was born in London on the  
22nd of January 1788.

He died at Missolonghi, in Western Greece, on the  
19th of April 1824,

engaged in the glorious attempt to restore that  
country to her ancient freedom and renown.

His sister, the Honourable  
Augusta Mary Leigh,  
placed this tablet to his memory.”

Above the tablet hang chaplets of bay and laurel, and beneath it is a faded silken escutcheon, displaying the arms of the noble family of Byron quarterly with those of Gordon, ensigned with the baronial coronet, and accompanied by the time-honoured motto, “Crede Byron.” A handsome marble tablet, on the same wall, surmounted by armorial bearings, records the decease in 1852 of “Augusta Ada, only daughter of George Gordon Noel, sixth Lord Byron, and wife of William, Earl of Lovelace.” On the opposite wall hangs the funeral achievement of the Hon. Catherine

Gordon Byron, the mother of the poet, who died in 1811; and on the north side of the altar is a fine mural monument, adorned with well-carved cherubs' heads, foliage, and drapery, inscribed to "Richard, Lord Byron, who with the rest of his family, being 7 brothers, faithfully served King Charles the First in the civil wars, who suffered much for their loyalty, and lost all their present fortunes." In the north aisle there is a tablet to John Curtis, Gent., 1777, whose ancestors had resided in this place upwards of five hundred years; and at the western end of the church lies a curious old sepulchral slab, probably of the thirteenth century, bearing a raised cross, accompanied by a wool-comb and a pair of shears, which possibly indicated that the slab covered the grave of some old merchant of the staple. Belonging to this church there is a fine old silver chalice and a paten, given in 1664 "by ye hon<sup>ble</sup> Elizabeth Byron, daughter of ye Right hon<sup>ble</sup> Lord Viscount Chaworth," which is well worthy of inspection. Hucknall Torkard itself presents few attractions to the tourist, but it boasts of a few quaint old gabled buildings; and in the village street stands an old box-tree, reputed to be four hundred years old, and said to be the largest in England. A weekly market has recently been established here, which is largely attended by the neighbouring colliers. About a mile and three quarters to the south-west of the village stands Bulwell Wood Hall, originally a fine old stone mansion, rebuilt in the time of Charles I. by the Hon. William Byron, eldest son of the second Lord Byron, but having been purchased about a century ago by the grandfather of the present Duke of Portland, to whom it now belongs, it was partly dismantled, and has been occupied as a farm-

house for some years past. Amongst the quaint traditions that flit about this neighbourhood, it used to be related by the old inhabitants of Hucknall that the Hon. William Byron, of Bulwell Wood Hall, had a daughter who clandestinely married one of her father's dog-keepers, by whom she had several children; and it was further added, that the mysterious "White Lady," who some years ago haunted the grounds of Newstead Abbey, sprang from this ill-assorted match. The interior of such portion of the mansion as remains standing, contains nothing remarkable, beyond a curious circular staircase entirely formed of huge solid blocks of oak, and an old picture, which, although it certainly does not rank very high as a work of art, is somewhat interesting as representing a favourite grey horse of the fifth Lord Byron, upon which he is said to have ridden, after the conclusion of his trial at Westminster Hall, in 1765, from London to this house, without drawing rein, and whose back he broke, upon that occasion, in attempting to force the poor brute to leap the park-gates.

BULWELL, another populous village, mainly occupied by framework-knitters and others employed in various manufactories, lies upon the banks of the Leen, about three miles southward of Hucknall Torkard, having a station upon the Midland Railway. The church occupies a steep elevation at the southern extremity of the village, and was entirely rebuilt in the Perpendicular style in 1850, upon a site closely adjacent to that upon which the more ancient edifice stood. In the village stands an old free school, founded and endowed in 1668 by George Strelley, Esq., whose armorial bearings, together with those of the four original trustees, adorn the front of the now



somewhat dilapidated school-house. The Hall, which is a large and handsome stone mansion, very pleasantly situated upon a commanding eminence about a mile and a half to the west of the village, was built in the last century by John Newton, Esq., and is now the residence of Mrs Cooper, the estate having been purchased about ten years ago by the late Samuel Thomas Cooper, Esq., who considerably enlarged the mansion, and improved the surrounding grounds.

BASFORD, a still more populous manufacturing village, lies about a mile further southward. The parish church, which is dedicated to St Leodegarius, is a large and venerable edifice, with a fine Early English chancel, standing near the banks of the river Leen. During the restoration of this church in 1859, the old tower fell down, doing considerable damage to the remainder of the fabric, and about a year later the present handsome pinnacled tower was completed. The interior is adorned with some good modern stained windows, one of which is a memorial of the late Duke of Newcastle, who was lord of this manor; and there are also numerous mural monuments. Near the south porch, in the churchyard, is an inscription recording the death, in 1755, of one Henry Ward, who is affirmed to have attained the very remarkable age of 108 years. The old brick mansion near the church, known as the Manor-house, was the birthplace of Philip James Bailey, the talented author of "Festus," and for some years the residence of his father, Mr Thomas Bailey, a local historian of some repute. At Basford, too, was born in 1768 the celebrated musician, Dr John Spray, celebrated for the compass and sweetness of his voice; and here likewise was born in 1790 Dr Marshall Hall, who has been

spoken of as "the greatest physiologist of his age." The Mansfield branch of the Midland Railway intersects the village, and has a station here.

At CINDER HILL, a small modern hamlet lying about a mile south-east of Basford, there are extensive brick-works, capable of turning out ten million bricks annually; and here, too, are several important collieries of more than ordinary interest. "The most elaborate imitations of living foliage upon the painted ceilings of Italian palaces," says Buckland, "bear no comparison with the beauteous profusion of extinct vegetable forms with which the galleries of these instructive coal-mines are hung. The spectator feels himself transported as if by enchantment into the forests of another world; he beholds trees of forms and character now unknown upon the face of the earth—faithful records of extinct systems of vegetation, which began and terminated in times of which these relics are the infallible historians." About a mile and a half southward of Basford is

RADFORD, once a quiet little country village, but which has shared so largely in the manufacturing spirit of the neighbouring town of Nottingham, that it now ranks as the second most populous parish in the whole county. The parish church, which occupies a gentle eminence rising above the river Leen, was rebuilt, in 1812, in the poorest and meanest style of Pseudo-Gothic, but has recently been somewhat improved by the addition of a chancel and transepts. In the lower part of the village there is a station on the Midland Railway, near to which is the junction of the branch communicating with the Erewash Valley line. About a mile to the north-west of the village is Aspley Hall, once a residence of a younger branch

of the noble family of Willoughby, but now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Middleton, and in the occupancy of Richard Birkin, Esq. From Radford one road leads into Nottingham, to which it is closely adjacent, whilst another crosses the river Leen, probably near to the ancient ford from which the village is believed to have derived its name, and skirting the northern boundary of Wollaton Park, leads into

WOLLATON, a long, straggling, rural village, very pleasantly situated along the roadside, about three miles to the west of Nottingham. The church, which is dedicated to St Leonard, stands immediately opposite to where some old masonry, incorporated with the walls of cottages, indicate the site of the mansion originally occupied by the ancient and knightly family of Willoughby, of whom more anon. Within this church may be found many fine old monuments of various styles and dates, the earliest of which is a large slab of Purbeck marble placed beneath an enriched canopy on the north side of the altar, and bearing two beautiful brasses representing Richard Willoughby, Esq., 1471, and Anna, his wife, 1467. A fine canopied altar-tomb, on the opposite side of the chancel, is adorned with the recumbent effigies of Sir Henry Willoughby, 1528, and his four wives, which latter are of such diminutive proportions, that, as a local writer has remarked, "if the ladies were really of the size represented, we cannot be surprised at his taking a quantity." Within the family pew, at the east end of the north aisle, are mural monuments, profusely ornamented with carving and gilding, to Henry Willoughby, Esq., 1548, and Anna, his wife, sister of Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, 1546; Henry Willoughby, Esq., 1641; and Sir William Willoughby,

Bart., 1670. A small memorial to Sir Percival Willoughby, 1643, and Bridget, his wife, 1629, has been inserted in the recess usually occupied by the piscina ; and the chancel likewise contains a large mural monument, adorned with two well-executed figures of angels by *Westmacott*, recording the decease, in 1835, of Henry, sixth Lord Middleton ; and a handsome monument of Caen stone to Digby, seventh Lord Middleton, who died in 1856 ; together with memorials of several former Lords Middleton. On the south wall of the nave, near the pulpit, is a tablet to Robert Smithson, Gent., "Architector and Surveyor unto the most worthy house of Wollaton, with diverse others of great account," who died in 1614 ; and opposite to it is a tablet to Dr Thomas Mann, Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge, who died in 1670. About half a mile to the south-east of the village, upon the highest part of a commanding eminence, in the midst of a noble park, abounding in old timber, crossed by four stately avenues, and well stocked with red and fallow deer, stands Wollaton Hall, the ancient family seat of the Right Hon. Lord Middleton, but which is, for the present, in the occupancy of Henry Akroyd, Esq., J.P. The original family of Willoughby, of Wollaton, sprang from one Ralph Bugge, a wealthy wool merchant of Nottingham, who lived in the time of Henry III., whose son, Richard, having obtained an estate at Willoughby-on-the-Wolds, settled there, and assumed the surname of Willoughby, which was retained by his descendants. Sir Richard de Willoughby, the grandson of the prosperous wool merchant, acquired the manor of Wollaton, and either he or his son (who was for many years Lord Chief-Justice of the King's Bench about the time of Edward III.), erected the old stone mansion

which formerly stood near to the parish church. Their descendant, Sir Francis Willoughby, built the stately mansion, which we are about to notice, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and having no male issue he settled this estate upon his eldest daughter, Bridget, who became the wife of Sir Percival Willoughby, whose descent was derived from another stock. Their grandson, who succeeded to the estate in 1665, was the celebrated naturalist and philosophical writer, and his eldest son, Francis, was created a baronet in 1677, whilst his second son, Thomas, was raised to the peerage as Baron Middleton in 1711. Wollaton Hall itself, one of the finest specimens of English domestic architecture, was commenced in 1580 and completed in 1588 by Sir Francis Willoughby, "out of ostentation to show his riches," as Camden remarks; the material used in its construction being Ancaster stone, which was conveyed hither, according to tradition, on horses' backs, in exchange for coals dug up on the estate. The building is simple in its plan, being a square, flanked at each angle by a low square tower, and surmounted by a massive central tower, having bartizans flanked at the corners by domed turrets of somewhat peculiar design. Externally this fine old fabric consists of two entirely distinct portions, viz., the great dominant central tower, and the remainder of the composition. These, although built at the same time, or nearly so, differ entirely from each other in proportion and ornamentation. The great tower distinctly bears a Gothic character, but of so weak a kind that it appears to be rather an artificial and inanimate revival of that which was dead, than an actual later specimen of an abandoned style. Nevertheless, this tower is undoubtedly most imposing, and had Wollaton Hall

remained without it, the loss would have been very considerable. There is much dignified beauty about the principal front, with its double flight of balustraded steps leading to the door; while the bold breaks of its façade ensures the valuable assistance of a sufficient amount of light and shade, which plays over its surface in varied masses when a sunny day smiles upon it, and its angle towers springing aloft, with their obelisk pinnacles, lightly break the sky-line in a charming manner. The garden front is of the same character, but instead of rising from a deer-park, it has a stately terrace spread out before it, relieved by groups of fine evergreens and the lovely turf of an English lawn, the stone basin of a fountain, and a few statues. It is somewhat doubtful whether the architect whose genius raised this stately pile was the famous John of Padua, or John Thorpe, a celebrated English architect of that day, assisted by Smithson; but that the last-mentioned architect was employed here is clearly demonstrated by the inscription upon his monument in the neighbouring parish church. The grand feature of the interior is the great hall, 60 feet long and 60 feet high, surmounted by a roof supported by open timber frames, arranged in compartments, finely carved and richly adorned with the arms of the noble family of Willoughby and their alliances. At one end is a richly-carved oak screen, unfortunately disfigured with paint, and the walls have been deprived of their panelling; yet the effect of the whole, with its trophies of arms and armour, stags' heads, and old paintings, is particularly fine. Immediately above the hall is a spacious apartment called the ball-room, which, but for its inconvenient access, would form a valuable addition to the mansion. The principal staircase is

adorned with well-painted frescoes, attributed to a pupil of *Verrio*, representing the story of Prometheus, into which some portraits of the Willoughby family are introduced. The paintings throughout the mansion are both good and numerous, but only a few of the more especially attractive need here be noticed. In the hall are four large pictures of animals and dead game; by *Snyders*; two pastoral scenes, by *Rosa da Tivoli*; and a picture of Wollaton Hall, painted in 1695, by *Sibrechts*. In the dining-room are four other good paintings by *Snyders*; several portraits by *Barber*; a portrait of the present Lord Middleton, by *Grant*; and a portrait of Lady Middleton, by *Winterhalter*; together with several good paintings by *Valentine*, *Sibrechts*, and *Hemskirk*. The saloon contains a portrait of Sir Francis Willoughby, who built the house, by *Zucchers*; a grand portrait of Thomas, first Lord Middleton, in his robes, and another of his sister, Cassandra, Duchess of Chandos, both by *Sir Godfrey Kneller*; a portrait of Thomas, fourth Lord Middleton, by *Romney*; portraits of William, Prince of Orange, the Princess Mary of Orange, and a young Prince of Bavaria, by *Rubens*; and a good Scriptural piece by the same artist; and also a magnificent painting of Achilles discovered at the court of Lycomedes, likewise by *Rubens*. In the library is a curious old portrait of Sir Richard de Willoughby, Lord Chief-Justice of the King's Bench in the time of Edward III.; a portrait of Francis Willoughby, the naturalist, by an unknown artist; a fine portrait of Francis, second Lord Middleton, by *Sir Joshua Reynolds*; and a portrait of Henry, fifth Lord Middleton, by *Pompeio Baloni*. Whilst, in the billiard-room, may be found a portrait of Sir Hugh Willoughby, the Arctic navigator, who was frozen to

death in the north seas in 1553. The gardens, which are extensive and well planned, are enriched with numerous choice shrubs and trees, amongst which an unusually fine group of cedars and several noble specimens of the *Ilex* tribe are conspicuous. The stables, which form a handsome pile of buildings on the western side of the mansion, were erected by Sir Francis Willoughby, the first baronet, towards the close of the seventeenth century. Within the limits of the park there formerly stood a considerable village, known as Sutton Passeys, but this place was entirely demolished many years ago by the Willoughby family, in order to secure greater privacy to their domain, and not even the church was spared.

“ Over the site the green grass grows,  
Where the stately deer can in safety browse;  
And mighty trees rise high and fair,  
As if it had aye been woodland there.”



## EXCURSION V.

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*FROM NOTTINGHAM TO LENTON, BEESTON, AND  
ATTENBOROUGH, FROM THENCE TO STAPLE-  
FORD AND ALONG THE WESTERN BORDERS OF  
THE COUNTY, BY SELSTON AND SUTTON-IN-  
ASHFIELD, NORTHWARD TO MANSFIELD.*

LENTON, a large and populous village, takes its name from its situation upon the Len or Leen, and lies in the valley of that river, on the western side of the park and meadows of Nottingham, at a distance of about one mile and a half from the town. Here William de Peverel, Lord of Nottingham, the reputed natural son of William the Conqueror, founded a magnificent Cluniac Priory in the reign of Henry I., which eventually became one of the richest and most important monastic establishments in this part of England, and enjoyed many valuable and peculiar privileges. Nicholas Heath, the last prior, was attainted and hung for denying the king's supremacy in the time of Henry VIII., and the possessions of the monastery were subsequently granted by the Crown to various persons. The conventual buildings appear to have been of very considerable extent, but not a vestige remains to mark the site of this stately Priory, beyond the bases of two massive Norman pillars and some fragments of the wall of the great conventual church, which may be found in a cottage garden at the back of the old parish church. Several stone coffins, and other relics of more or less interest, have been found at various times near here, and in the 67th volume of the "Gentleman's Maga-

zine," there is an engraving of a very curious brass plate, bearing a representation of the Crucifixion, supposed to have once belonged to Cardinal Wolsey, which was discovered upon the site of the Priory about a century ago. The parish register incidentally mentions that some part of the monastery was standing in 1601, and Thoroton, writing in the time of Charles II., says, "There was only one square steeple left of the monastery, which not long since fell down, and the stones of it were employed to make a causeway through the town." This latter statement is not, however, quite correct, for the old gatehouse of the Priory was in existence within the memory of living man, and stood across the Wilford lane, not far from the entrance to the old churchyard. In a large room above the archway of this gatehouse the sittings of the court of the Honour of Peverel were held for some few years, but the court was subsequently removed to the "White Hart" inn, the chief hostelry of the village, where the court-room may yet be seen, together with the debtors' prison, now in a very dilapidated condition. Upon the site of the prior's lodgings, near to the banks of the river Leen, and opposite to where the great orchard and gardens of the monastery formerly stood, the late Mr William Stretton, a local architect of some repute, erected for himself a large stone mansion, known as "the Priory," which was afterwards occupied by his son, Colonel Sempronius Stretton, C.B., but is now divided into two smaller residences. Within the court-yard of the old Priory there was an hospital for such persons as should be afflicted with the disease known as "St Anthony's fire," and at the dissolution of the monastery some part of the hospital buildings was converted into the parish church, and continued

to be used as such until the year 1842, when a new church was erected upon another site, and the old building being dismantled is now a roofless ruin, picturesquely mantled with ivy. The chancel has, however, recently been put into a state of repair, and is again used for divine service. Within the ruined walls of the old nave are fragments of several ancient sepulchral slabs, one of which bears part of an incised cross and a chalice. In the churchyard may be seen a cenotaph to Colonel Sempronius Stretton, C.B., who served with distinction in the Peninsula and at the memorable battle of Waterloo, and died in 1842; and also memorials to the families of Wright, Needham, Evans, and others. The new parish church is a large but poorly-designed structure in the Early English style of architecture, having a lofty pinnaced tower containing a peal of six bells. A very fine old Norman font, once belonging to the Priory, has been placed in this church, and is well worthy of inspection. In the more modern part of the village, known as New Lenton, are various lace and hosiery manufactories, extensive starch works, and a large gassing and bleaching establishment, and on the banks of the river Leen, towards the south-western extremity of the old village, is one of the most extensive and noted fell-monger's establishments in this country. Near the old village there is a station upon the Mansfield branch of the Midland Railway. Upon the richly-wooded eminence rising beyond the Leen on the western side of the village are several spacious residences, all beautifully situated, and commanding fine views of the valley of the Trent. Lenton Hall, a large Pseudo-Gothic structure, standing in a well-timbered park, was erected, about the close of the last century, by

John Wright, Esq., whose son sold the property to the late Lord Middleton ; the mansion is now the seat of Henry Smith Wright, Esq., another member of the same family, by whom it has recently been purchased. The high road from Lenton to Beeston passes the two fine entrance-lodges to Wollaton Park, and from the hill near to Lenton Firs, the residence of John Adams, Esq., a charming prospect is obtained ; but the pedestrian will find "Cut-throat lane," in spite of its ominous designation, a shorter and remarkably picturesque walk, passing by a sandstone cliff, interesting to the geologist, and skirting the thickly-wooded grounds of Highfield. The antiquary should notice the extraordinary and unnatural undulations upon the hill-side to the southward of this lane, as to the origin of which various unsatisfactory conjectures have been advanced. A tradition that a battle between the Britons and Romans was fought in the valley near here, has, in a measure, been confirmed by the discovery of many bones and other relics.

BEESTON, a long, straggling road-side village, pleasantly situated in the valley of the Trent, at the foot of a gentle eminence, about four miles to the southwest of the town of Nottingham, has a very extensive silk mill, burnt down in the Reform riots of 1832, and rebuilt in 1840, and also several lace and hosiery manufactories, finding employment for a large proportion of the inhabitants. The Midland Railway passes near here, and there is a station about half a mile from the village. The church, which is dedicated to St Peter, and is a handsome structure, in the Perpendicular style of architecture, with a fine massive tower containing a good peal of six bells, was partly rebuilt in 1844, under the superintendence of the eminent archi-

fect, Sir Gilbert Scott. In it may be found an old Norman font, and some good modern stained glass; there are also some memorials to the Strey family, who were for about three centuries lords of this manor, and several modern tablets to the Rickards and other families. In 1593 this village was visited by a pestilence, and "the plague hole," in which the dead were interred, is still pointed out in the churchyard. The Manor-house, once the residence of the Streys, stands at a short distance from the church, near to the site of the old village cross, around which a corn-market was held in former days.\* About a mile to the north-east of the village, upon a wooded eminence, commanding an extensive prospect stretching into the adjacent counties of Lincoln, Leicester, and Derby, stands Highfield, a plain Georgian mansion, built in the last century by Joseph Lowe, Esq., J.P., and now the residence of his great-grandson, Edward Joseph Lowe, Esq., J.P., whose meteorological observatory here is so widely known. The house contains a fine collection of paintings, chiefly by the ancient masters, and the surrounding grounds, which are of some considerable extent, are singularly picturesque and beautiful.

CHILWELL lies about a mile beyond Beeston, and takes its name from a noted spring formerly known as "the chill well." The Hall, which occupies the site of an ancient mansion, rebuilt about the time of Henry VI. by Sir William Babington, Lord Chief-Justice of Common Pleas, is now the seat and property of Thomas Broughton Charlton, Esq., J.P., and has

\* "Gleanings, or Something about Beeston in the Olden Times," a small pamphlet written by the present vicar of the parish, the Rev. T. J. Oldrini, contains various interesting particulars relative to this place.

belonged to that gentleman's ancestors for more than two centuries.

ATTENBOROUGH, a small village, standing near to the confluence of the Trent and Erewash, on the borders of the county, about half a mile to the south of Chilwell, is remarkable as the birthplace of Henry Ireton, the regicide, who married a daughter of Oliver Cromwell, and became Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1650. He was born in an old house, still standing on the western side of the churchyard, and was baptised in the parish church on November the 10th, 1611, as appears from an entry in the register. His younger brother, John Ireton, who was born here in 1615, also took an active part in the civil wars, and was Lord Mayor of London in 1658. The fine old parish church, dedicated to St Mary Magdalene, dates mainly from the fourteenth century, but has some earlier work of considerable interest, particularly the arcades between the nave and side aisles, which are supported by massive round piers, with grotesquely sculptured caps, and are fine examples of the peculiar architecture prevailing in the twelfth century, during the transition period between the Norman and the Early English styles. The chancel contains some well-carved bench ends of the fourteenth century, and some good oak panelling of a later date. On the east wall of the chancel is a wooden frame bearing the arms of the Powtrell family, with the date 1623, and an old mural monument to the Rev. John Mather, vicar of this parish, who died in 1625, and near the chancel arch is another mural monument to "ffrancis Jaques *allias* Gamboul, of Toton, gent.," who died in 1606. Some memorials to the Charltons, of Chilwell, may be found in the south aisle, and in the north aisle is a small marble tablet,

surmounted by a hatchment, recording the decease, in 1822, of the Right Hon. Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren, Bart. The porch door is of considerable antiquity, and on the floor of the porch are three old sepulchral slabs with incised crosses. At a short distance from the church there is a small station on the Midland Railway. Near Attenborough is

Toton, a little village, which has not unfrequently been mistaken for Towton, in Yorkshire, where the Yorkists obtained the bloody and decisive victory over the Lancastrians in the Wars of the Roses; and upwards of two miles further northward is

STAPLEFORD, a populous but poorly-built manufacturing village, somewhat pleasantly situated near the banks of the river Erewash, at the foot of a low range of hills, about six miles distant from the town of Nottingham. The greater part of the church, which is dedicated to St Helen, appears to have been built towards the close of the thirteenth century, but the whole fabric has been sorely disfigured by modern innovations, and is now in a sad state of dilapidation. In the chancel may be found several tablets to the Jackson family, once lords of the manor of Stapleford and patrons of the living, and also a large mural monument to George John Borlase Warren, Esq., who was killed in action at Aboukir, in Egypt, in 1801, and in the nave are some other memorials to the Warrens. The south aisle contains an incised slab to Robert Tevery, Esq., 1553, a small mural monument to John Tevery, Esq., 1580, and an elaborate altar-tomb adorned with the effigies of Gervase Tevery, Esq., 1639, and of his wife and three children. A handsome tomb in the churchyard remembers Captain William Sleigh, of the 26th Light Dragoons, who died

in 1842 ; and in the village street, near to the gates of the churchyard, stands a very ancient and curious Anglo-Saxon cross, which the tourist must not fail to notice. The Hall, now the seat of Charles Ichabod Wright, Esq., occupies a low situation near the river on the western side of the village, and was rebuilt in the last century by the Right Hon. Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren, Bart.,—a gallant and distinguished naval officer,—whose ancestor purchased this estate from the representatives of the family of Tevery, in the time of Charles II.

BRAMCOTE is delightfully situated upon the northern slope of a considerable eminence about five miles westward of Nottingham, and has long enjoyed an agreeable reputation for its healthy locality, and for the longevity of its inhabitants. The old church, dedicated to St Michael, stood in the highest part of the parish, but was taken down, with the exception of the tower, in 1861, and a new church was then erected upon another site. Such monuments as were in the old church are now preserved in the lower part of the tower, where may be found an old incised slab, bearing the figures of a man and woman and an illegible inscription ; a mural monument to Henry Handley, Gent., “a man genrillie beloved for his vertues,” who died in 1603 ; and another curious inscription to Henry Handley, Esq., who was a great benefactor to this and other parishes, and died in 1650. The new church is in the Decorated style of architecture, and has a well-proportioned tower and spire, and the whole fabric is enriched with much fine carving in Caen and Ancaster stone, the chancel being especially ornate. In it is a curious old font, removed from the old church, and a very beautiful mural monument to John Sherwin Gregory,



Esq., who gave the site for the church, and contributed largely towards its erection. The Manor-house, an old gabled mansion, built about the time of James I. by the Handley family, whose residence it was, is very pleasantly situated at a short distance from the village, on the southern slope of the hill towards Beeston, and being luxuriantly mantled with ivy and embowered in fine old trees, presents a very picturesque appearance. For many years past it has been occupied by tenant farmers, but some of the rooms still contain good oak-panelling, curiously inlaid with the armorial bearings of the Handleys and others. The Hall, a fine modern mansion, in the Elizabethan style, now the seat of Frederick Chatfield Smith, Esq., M.P., occupies a very commanding situation on the southern side of the village, and the magnificent prospect obtained from the windows of this house extends into the counties of Lincoln, Leicester, Derby, Rutland, and Stafford. Bramcote Hills, the seat of Mrs Sherwin Gregory, stands at the foot of a richly-wooded eminence, about half a mile to the north-west of the village; and upon the brow of an abrupt rising ground, a little beyond this mansion, stands a very curious and conspicuous object, familiarly known as "the Hemlock stone." This is a huge, crumbling, isolated mass of rock, or red sandstone, cropping up perpendicularly from the slightly depressed ridge upon which it stands, and being surmounted by two broad and distinct masses of a tough green ragstone, called in the vernacular of the district "hemlock stone," which project very considerably over the shaft, giving a most remarkable appearance to the object. The whole mass, on the southern side, is between forty and fifty feet in height, and on the northern about thirty, and at the base it

measures altogether over fifty feet in girth. Various conjectures have been made with respect to the origin of this interesting relic, which our ancestors were wont to look upon as one of the oldest and most important works of man in this part of the country, but the position of the stone is obviously natural, and geologists claim it as a water-worn rock or islet left by the receding waters of the glacial epoch. Near here are the remains of an imaginary copper mine. An immense sum of money was sunk in this hopeless attempt, which the slightest practical knowledge of geology would have disconcerted at the outset.

TROWELL, a small scattered village, is pleasantly situated at the foot of a steep declivity near the river Erewash, five miles and three quarters westward of Nottingham. The old Hall, which stands on the southern side of the village, is a venerable mansion of red brick, probably erected about the time of Queen Elizabeth, although it presents externally every appearance of that style of domestic architecture which prevailed in France during the reign of Louis XIV., and which was not introduced into this country until the latter part of the seventeenth century. The front is said to have once been principally composed of wood, and the centre of the house, now divided into two stories and partitioned into small rooms, was all in one great apartment, or hall, having a fine open timbered roof, the beams of which are yet discernible in the garrets. Here resided a branch of the Hacker family until the year 1735, when John Hacker, Esq., the last male representative of this branch, accidentally broke his neck by a fall down the stairs of this house. The parish church of St Helen stands near to the old hall, and is a fabric of very considerable antiquity, having

an Early English chancel in a fair state of preservation; but the whole edifice has been much disfigured by modern alterations. Within its walls may be found an interesting font, and a quaint old wooden pulpit, bearing the date 1667. Near the chancel-arch is a mural monument to William Hacker, Gent., who died in 1668. The new rectory-house is a good modern mansion, in the Elizabethan style, well situated upon an eminence upwards of half a mile to the east of the village.

COSSAL is a pleasant little village, occupying an eminence near the borders of the county, about two miles beyond Trowell. In the village street stands a picturesque old almshouse, founded in 1685 by George Willoughby, Esq., having eight separate tenements and a small chapel, in which the services of the Romish church were performed until about the commencement of the present century. The church, which is a small structure, was partly rebuilt in 1842. It contains a fine old font, and an interesting figure of St Catherine, the patron saint of the church, in ancient stained glass. Here is also an old vault, in which many members of a younger branch of the noble family of Willoughby have been interred. Some remains of the old mansion formerly occupied by the Willoughbys may be found incorporated with a modern farm-house standing at a short distance from the church. The greater part of the moat, once surrounding the mansion, can still be traced. Cossal Marsh, a small hamlet, lying about half a mile to the north of Cossal, is believed to have been the place described by Tanner as having a Benedictine cell, or chapel, dedicated to St Thomas.

STRELLEY, which may best be described as a district of scattered houses embowered in foliage, lies nearly

two miles to the east of Cossal, at a distance of about five miles west-north-west of Nottingham, and is remarkable as having given name to one of the oldest and most distinguished knightly families of which this county can boast. The pedigree of this illustrious family has been traced back to Walter de Stradlegh, who held lands here in the reign of Henry I., and whose descendants flourished in uninterrupted succession as lords of the manor of Strelley until the time of Henry VII., when the greater part of their vast estates were divided amongst four coheiresses. The manor of Strelley then became the inheritance of a younger branch of the family, which continued here for some years, but eventually became involved in pecuniary difficulties, and in the time of Charles II. the Strelleys had not only lost their ancestral home, but were in such reduced circumstances that Nicholas Strelley, the then representative, was forced to earn his bread by glass-blowing. Such was the end of a family whose proud boast it had been to have had no less than twelve successive generations honoured with knighthood. At some little distance from the village, upon a slight eminence, stands the parish church of All Saints, rebuilt about the year 1356 by Sir Sampson de Strelley, and recently restored in a very efficient manner. The chancel, which is partitioned from the nave by a magnificent Perpendicular rood screen of finely-carved oak, contains all that was mortal of the once mighty Strelleys, and here may still be seen their monumental effigies—

“Sheathed in steel,  
With belted sword, and spur on heel.”

On the chancel floor are two very fine brasses to Sir Robert de Strelley, who died in 1487, and Dame

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Isabella, his wife, who died in 1493, and various incised slabs, all more or less mutilated. There is also a fine marble altar-tomb, having the recumbent effigies of a knight and lady of the Strelley family, and a handsome marble altar-tomb surmounted by an elaborate stone canopy, and bearing the effigies of John Strelley, Esq., who died in 1501, and of Saunchia, his wife. In the windows are some remains of painted glass, including several coats of arms, amongst which may be noticed "Paly of six *argent* and *azure*," the time-honoured arms of the Strelley family. In the south transept is a floor-stone to Ralph Edge, Esq., "an eminent attorney-at-law," who purchased this estate from the Strelleys, and died in 1684; and here are several other memorials of the family of Edge. Strelley Hall, the seat of James Thomas Edge, Esq., J.P., stands near the church, and is a large square modern residence, erected towards the close of the last century upon the site of the ancient mansion of the Strelley family, of which some small portion remains to the present day.

BILBOROUGH is a small village, pleasantly situated in a slight depression or hollow, about four miles to the west-north-west of Nottingham. The church, which is dedicated to St Martin, is a venerable structure, mainly in the Perpendicular style of architecture. In the chancel is a monument bearing a very singular Latin epitaph to Edmund Elwys, who died about the beginning of the seventeenth century, and near it are two old sepulchral slabs with incised crosses. About half a mile to the east of the church, upon a considerable elevation, commanding an extensive prospect of the surrounding country, stands

BROXTOW HALL, a fine old stone mansion, now the

property of the Right Hon. Lord Middleton, and in the occupancy of a tenant farmer. The present mansion was built, in the time of Charles I., by Sir Thomas Smith, a gallant Royalist (whose arms appear above the principal entrance), upon the site of a much older structure, remarkable as having been at one time the residence of Sir Hugh Willoughby, the Arctic navigator. The interior presents nothing of interest, having been completely modernised, and deprived of all the fine carved oak panelling and furniture with which it was once filled throughout, but the exterior affords a fair example of the domestic architecture of the Stuart period, although recent injudicious alterations have destroyed much of its original character. An ancient chapel formerly stood near the Hall, and in the chapel-yard, which still remains, there is a small mound pointed out as the grave of two infant children of Queen Anne!

NUTHALL, a small rural village, lies about four miles and a half to the north-west of Nottingham. The church is dedicated to St Patrick, and dates from the latter end of the fourteenth century, with the exception of the chancel, which is modern. The side aisle contains some beautiful traceried screen-work of the Perpendicular character, and in this part of the church may be found the recumbent effigy of a knight of the Cokefield family, once lords of this place. The east window of the chancel is filled with fine old stained glass, representing the Saviour and two saints, and exhibiting the arms of the families of Grey, Morley, and D'Arcy; and there is also a figure of St George and other remains of old stained glass in the windows on the south side of the chancel. The chancel also contains a mural monument to James Farewell, Esq.,

who died in 1710, and some more modern memorials to the Nixon family, and at the western end of the nave, partly concealed by the pews, is a large incised slab bearing the effigies of Edmund Boun, Gent., who died in 1558, with his wife and six children. It may not be uninteresting to add that this Edmund Boun was the grandfather of Gilbert Boun, sergeant-at-law, whose genealogical and topographical researches formed the basis of that invaluable history of Nottinghamshire which was completed by his son-in-law, Dr Robert Thoroton. Nuthall Temple, a somewhat remarkable structure, now the seat of the Rev. Atkinson Alexander Holden, occupies an eminence on the northern side of the village, and was built by the late Sir Charles Sedley, Bart., in imitation of the Villa Capra, near Vicenza, in Italy, so well known as the original rotunda of *Palladio*, the celebrated restorer of ancient architecture. The mansion consists of a square with two low wings, and a handsome portico in front, formed by six lofty pillars sustaining a well-proportioned pediment, and having a light balustraded range of steps beneath. The roof is somewhat steeply pitched, and has a lofty dome in the centre, which forms a conspicuous and incongruous feature in the landscape for many miles round. The interior of the dome displays a profusion of ornamental plaster-work, and has a light gallery, supported by the pillars of the entrance-hall, which is the finest apartment this singular mansion contains. Nuthall Temple, like all other copies of the Villa Capra, are far inferior to the original, and, indeed, from an architectural point of view, can only be looked upon as a failure.

WATNALL CHAWORTH and WATNALL CANTELUPE together form a pleasant little village, occupying a

somewhat elevated position one mile and a half beyond Nuthall. The venerable hall, which is well situated and completely surrounded by fine old timber, has been in the possession of the Rollestons since the time of Queen Elizabeth, and is now the seat of Lancelot Rolleston, Esq., the present representative of the family.

GREASLEY lies beyond Watnall about seven miles to the north-west of Nottingham, giving its name to the largest parish in Nottinghamshire, said to be upwards of twenty miles in circumference, and including five populous villages. This place formerly belonged to the Greasley family, but eventually passed, through marriage, into the hands of the baronial family of Cantelupe. In 1340 Edward III. granted licence to Nicholas, Lord Cantelupe, and his heirs to strengthen or fortify their mansion-house at Greasley, which from that time was known as Greasley Castle, and of which some slight remains may yet be found upon the brow of a somewhat precipitous eminence near to the church. The church itself is a large and handsome structure, with a fine pinnacled tower, but the whole fabric has suffered much from incongruous modern additions and alterations. Students of campanology will find an interesting mediæval bell in the steeple of this church, cast in the fifteenth century by William ffounder, whose mark appears thereon. In the chancel may be noticed an old floor-stone, with a brass plate inscribed to Helena, wife of Sir Richard Bingham, of Watnall, Justice of the King's Bench, who died in 1448, and also a large mural monument to Gilbert Millington, Esq., of Felley Priory (the grandson of Gilbert Millington, the regicide), who died in 1703. On the east wall of the nave, near the reading-desk, is a handsome mural monument, surmounted by the bust of a



gentleman in a long flowing perruque, and quaintly inscribed to Lancelot Rolleston, Esq., of Watnall, who died in 1685; and on the south side of the church are numerous other monuments and hatchments belonging to the family of Rolleston. About a mile to the north of the church, in a secluded valley, half buried in woods, stand the ruins of

The PRIORY of BEAUVALE, or BELLA VALE, so called from the fair vale in which it was built about the year 1343, by Nicholas, Lord Cantelupe. This monastery belonged to the Carthusian order, and was enriched by various benefactions from distinguished personages, amongst whom was John of Gaunt, "time-honoured Lancaster," who secured the prayers of the brethren for his longevity by the novel expedient of the gift of a tun of Gascoigny wine annually, as long as he should live. In 1535 Augustus Webster, Prior of Beauvale, was hung over the gatehouse of his monastery for opposing the measures of Henry VIII., and in 1539, Thomas Woodcock, last Prior of Beauvale, with his eight monks, peaceably surrendered the Priory to the Crown. The site was subsequently possessed by several notable families, and is now the property of the Right Hon. the Earl Cowper. A part of what appears to have been the south wall of the conventual church, and a large square building, together with several old walls, yet remain; but the ruins have little beyond their remarkably picturesque situation to attract the attention of the tourist. In the woods, at a short distance from the ruined Priory, is a noted spring of remarkably cold and pure water, called "Robin Hood's well," and said to have been a favourite resort of that doughty personage. Near here, beyond the High Park woods, a large stone mansion is now in

course of erection, which, when completed, will form the occasional seat of Lord Cowper.

EASTWOOD, a large and populous village, owing its prosperity to the neighbouring collieries, stands upon the borders of the county, nearly nine miles to the north-west of Nottingham. The parish church, which presents nothing of interest, was entirely rebuilt, in 1858, upon the site of a mean edifice of brick. The Hall, a substantial modern mansion, situated near the hamlet of Nether Green, about a mile further northward, is the property of Miss Walker, a minor, and is occupied by Robert Lindley, Esq. Following the road in the same direction for about a mile, through a country once possessing a quiet beauty of its own, but now disfigured by numberless collieries, the tourist reaches

BRINSLEY, a small scattered village, lying about half a mile from the river Erewash, and once the property of the Brinsley family, whose ancient mansion, known as the old Hall, is still standing, although it has been converted into a farm-house for many years past. Attached to this mansion there is said to have been an old chapel dedicated to St Chad, and skulls and other human remains are not unfrequently dug up in an orchard where the chapel is supposed to have stood. The Manor-house, now likewise occupied by a tenant farmer, is another old mansion, dating from the sixteenth century, and here are preserved several curiosities, amongst which is an old saddle, reputed to have belonged to the notorious highwayman, Dick Turpin. A small district church was erected at this place in 1838, upon a site given by the late Duke of Portland. About a mile and half to the north of Brinsley stands another old mansion, called Wansley

Hall, formerly the seat of the family of Wansley, and afterwards for more than two centuries the residence and property of the Middletons, from whom it passed by marriage to a younger branch of the family of Lowe ; and upwards of a mile beyond is

SELSTON, a large scattered village, mainly populated by colliers, occupying a considerable eminence rising from the eastern bank of the river Erewash, about twelve miles north-north-west of the town of Nottingham. Ancient writings show that the collieries near here have been in operation for more than three hundred years, for we are told that as far back as the latter end of the fifteenth century, the monks of Beauvale derived very considerable benefit from their coal mines at Selston. Indeed, there is reason to believe that these were the first beds of coal ever worked in Nottinghamshire. The parish church, which is dedicated to St Helen, is a venerable edifice with a low square tower. By the north wall of the chancel is a fine tomb to William Willoughby, Esq., who died in 1630, and in the windows are some remains of old stained glass. Dan Boswell, the gipsy king, who died whilst encamped with his tribe on the common near Selston, was interred in the churchyard, and upon his headstone are the following lines :—

“ I’ve lodged in many a town,  
I’ve travelled many a year,  
But Death at length hath brought me down  
To my last lodgings here.”

Crossing the extensive tract of uncultivated ground known as Selston Common, and proceeding for upwards of two miles in a south-easterly direction, the tourist will reach the remains of

FELLEY PRIORY, which are incorporated in a large

old gabled house, now partly occupied by a tenant-farmer, but formerly the seat of the Millington family, very pleasantly situated on the southern slope of a hill, backed by the woods and plantations of the Annesley estate. This monastery was founded, not long after the Norman invasion, in honour of the blessed Virgin Mary and of St Helen, by Ralph Britto de Annesley, an ancestor of the illustrious family of Annesley, who endowed it with extensive possessions, and gave it to the great Abbey of Worksop, as a minor house for Austin canons. James I. granted the site of Felley Priory to Anthony Millington, Esq., who converted some portion of the conventual buildings into a mansion, and demolished the remainder. His son, Gilbert Millington, who succeeded to this estate, was an active supporter of the Parliament during the civil wars, and became chairman of the committee for plundering ministers, and being one of those who signed the warrant for the execution of Charles I., earned for himself the odious epithet of regicide. From the Millingtons the estate passed by marriage to the family of Holden, but the site of the Priory now belongs to John Chaworth Musters, Esq., having been purchased by his grandfather.

ANNESLEY, the ancient seat of the Annesley family, from whom it passed, through marriage, to the Chaworths, and so in like manner to the Musters family, lies nearly two miles east-north-east of Felley. Thoroton tells us that, in the time of Henry III., Reginald Marc built himself a house at Annesley, in the forest of Sherwood, which was so strongly fortified that complaints were made to the king, lest it "might chance to bring damage to the neighbouring parts." No trace of this ancient castle now remains, but its

site is indicated by a precipitous eminence in Annesley Park, still known as the "Castle Hill." The Hall, which has been considerably enlarged and improved by its present possessor, John Chaworth Musters, Esq., J.P., is a fine old stone mansion, with irregular gables and square mullioned windows, picturesquely mantled with ivy, standing upon a slight elevation on the western side of an extensive and thickly-wooded deer-park. Apart from the interest which attaches to it as the birthplace and home of "Mary Chaworth," which must ever render it an object of attraction, this venerable structure, as the very *beau ideal* of an old English country mansion, is well worthy of the notice of the tourist through this part of Nottinghamshire, although no more than the exterior can be seen by the general public. The interior of the mansion contains a fine collection of old armour and family portraits; and here, too, are preserved several interesting relics, amongst which are the original "Farewell" lines written by Lord Byron to Miss Chaworth, together with one of the swords used in the fatal duel between Mr Chaworth and the fifth Lord Byron; and an ancient boot, reputed to have been worn by no less distinguished a personage than the bold outlaw, Robin Hood. Amongst the most interesting family portraits which adorn the walls of this fine old mansion is a full length portrait of John, second Viscount Chaworth, who defended Wiverton Hall for King Charles, and entertained Queen Henrietta Maria there on one of her journeys during the civil wars; a good portrait of William Chaworth, Esq., who fought the duel with Lord Byron; a portrait of the old Mrs Musters, who is said to have won the West Bridgeford estate by a game of cards; fine portraits of John Musters, Esq.,

and his lady, by *Sir Joshua Reynolds*; and portraits of John Musters, Esq., who married the heiress of the Chaworths, and of their son, the late John George Musters, Esq., in the uniform of the 10th Hussars. Of "Mary Chaworth" herself there is only a small miniature. The old parish church, which is closely adjacent to the Hall, contains some remains of old painted glass, including various shields of arms, and several ancient monuments. In the chancel is the effigy of a lady, supposed to have been one of the De Annesley family, clad in a long veil, wimple, cowl, and mantle, probably dating from about the middle of the fourteenth century, and in the large side aisle, commonly called "Felley Priory Aisle," and, doubtless, once frequented by the monks of that establishment, is an incised slab exhibiting the figure of a gentleman in armour of the sixteenth century, and near to it is the recumbent effigy of a layman, completely enveloped in a shroud of a somewhat later date. The ancient Norman font at the west end of the aisle should also be noticed. Upon the western wall of the nave are the armorial bearings of the last Viscount Chaworth, curiously worked in plaster, and bearing the date 1686. All the houses forming the old village of Annesley, which stood at a short distance from the church, were demolished some years ago, and the ground they occupied has been attached to the gardens and shrubberies surrounding the hall; but, upwards of a mile beyond, a large village has lately been built for the accommodation of the numerous colliers employed in the new pits near here, and upon the summit of a lofty hill, overlooking the village and commanding an extensive and varied prospect, stands a large and handsome new church, in the Early Decorated style of architecture, mainly erected

at the expense of the lord of the manor, John Chaworth Musters, Esq., who likewise gave the site both for the church and burial-ground. The wild, uncultivated hills beyond this place offer pleasant rambles over gorse and ling, and wide and beautiful views in every direction. From Cock's Moor, on a clear day, the towers of Lincoln Minster are distinctly visible, while the southern horizon is bounded by the rocks of Charnwood, and the eastern by the lofty range, crowned by Belvoir Castle. A curious group of small conical elevations near here, known as "Robin Hood hills," form a very remarkable natural amphitheatre, which well repays a visit. On the summit of one of the highest of these elevations there was formerly a seat hewn out of the solid rock, with a canopy above it, called "Robin Hood's chair," though probably of much higher antiquity, but this interesting relic was destroyed some years ago, having actually been taken down to form some rock-work in the gardens at Newstead Abbey. About a mile from the village there is a station on the Mansfield branch of the Midland Railway.

KIRKBY-IN-ASHFIELD, a considerable village, occupies an elevated situation about two miles and a half beyond Annesley, and five miles to the south-west of Mansfield, and has also a station on the same branch. This place formerly belonged to the Cavendish family, and about the time of Queen Elizabeth, Sir Charles Cavendish commenced to build a great house on a hill by the forest side near Kirkby Woodhouse; but, being assaulted by Sir John Stanhope and his men, as he was viewing the work, he resolved to abandon his project, and left the mansion unfinished, because some blood had been spilt in the quarrel, which was then

very hot between these two families. The old church, a venerable but somewhat dilapidated structure, dedicated to St Wilfrid, and dating from about the commencement of the fifteenth century, was almost entirely rebuilt about ten years ago. Here were formerly several monuments to the family of Coke, and in the churchyard three ancient sepulchral slabs, inscribed with crosses, may still be found. About a mile from the village is Langton Hall, an old mansion, once occupied by the Fitz-Randolph family, but now the seat of Lieut.-Colonel James Salmon, and near here is Brookhill Hall, a spacious modern residence, the property of Francis Lillyman D'Ewes Coke, Esq., picturesquely situated at the foot of a gentle declivity on the borders of Derbyshire, some part of the ground being in that county.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD, a large and populous but poorly built manufacturing village, stands upon an eminence about a mile and a half beyond Kirkby-in-Ashfield, and nearly three miles and a half west-south-west of Mansfield. Here once resided an ancient family who derived their surname from the place, and we are told that in the time of Edward I., one Jordan de Sutton held certain lands in Sutton-in-Ashfield by the tenure of attending the king's army in Wales for forty days, with one man and horse, duly armed with harbergeon, cap of iron, lance, and sword. The church here, which is dedicated to St Mary, is principally in the Early English style, having a late Decorated tower, surmounted by a plain spire, built about 1390, and somewhat damaged by lightning a few years ago. The entire fabric has recently been thoroughly restored and beautified. A plain floor-stone in the chancel, which, doubtless, covers the remains of some old forester,



exhibits a long bow and an arrow, but there are no other monuments worthy of remark. Nearly a mile and a half to the west of the village there is a station on the Midland line.

SKEGBY, a considerably smaller, though equally mean-looking, village, is pleasantly situated upon the two declivities of a deep and narrow valley, on the banks of the river Medin, about a mile and a half to the north of Sutton-in-Ashfield, and three miles to the west of Mansfield. In the church, which was formerly a chapel attached to the parish church of Mansfield, are two ancient sepulchral effigies, one of which represents a civilian, who, from the hunting-horn suspended across his shoulder by a baudrick, doubtless held some office in the old forest of Sherwood. The Hall, which for many years was the seat and property of the Lindley family, now belongs to Robert Marsh Eckersley Wilkinson Dodsley, Esq., whose residence it is. Leaving Skegby, and proceeding for upwards of a mile to the west-north-west through a picturesquely undulating and well-timbered country, the tourist reaches

TEVERSAL, a pretty little village embosomed in foliage, which occupies a lofty eminence near the source of the river Medin. Here was formerly a fine old mansion, built about the middle of the sixteenth century by Roger Greenhalgh, Esq., whose grandmother was the heiress of the Barry family, who had been seated here since the Norman invasion. The heiress of the Greenhalgh family subsequently carried the estate to a younger branch of the noble family of Molyneux, from whom it eventually passed by marriage, through the Howards, to the noble family of Herbert, and the site of the old mansion is now occupied by a modern residence, the seat of the Dowager Countess of Carnarvon.

The greater part of the parish church, which is a small fabric, dedicated to St Catherine, is in the Early English style, but a very beautiful Norman doorway yet remains, and there is likewise some work both of the Decorated and the Perpendicular periods. Within its walls are numerous fine old monuments, the oldest of which are two incised slabs at the eastern end of the south aisle to Roger Greenhalgh, Esq., 1562, and to Anne, his wife, 1538. Two large mural monuments in the chancel, richly adorned with armorial bearings, commemorate Sir Francis Molyneux, Bart., 1674, and Sir John Molyneux, Bart., 1691 ; and there are also two handsome marble tablets to Sir Francis Molyneux, Bart., 1718, and Sir Francis Molyneux, Bart., the last male representative of the family, 1812. The fine pew erected in the south aisle by the Molyneux family, about the time of Charles I., having a heavy canopy, supported by massive twisted pillars of carved oak, should also be noticed. Hardwick Hall, the home of "Bess of Hardwick," and now the occasional seat of her descendant, the Most Noble the Duke of Devonshire, is within a short distance from Teversal, a portion of the park being included within the limits of the parish, although the mansion itself stands in Derbyshire. Mansfield lies about four miles to the eastward of Teversal, the road running through Skegby, and so directly into the town.

## EXCURSION VI.

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### *MANSFIELD.*

MANSFIELD is a quiet little town, with a population of 11,824 persons, situated in a deep rocky dale, on the borders of Sherwood Forest, near the source of the river Maun, from which it derives its name ; having a good hotel (the Swan), and consisting of a market-place, from which diverge four principal streets of considerable length, intersected by numerous smaller streets, lanes, and alleys. From the great age of many of the houses, and the naturally dark colour of the stone of which it is built, the town presents a somewhat sombre and gloomy aspect, notwithstanding the great alterations that have been made within the last fifty years. In 1823, two Acts of Parliament were obtained, under which it has been well paved and lighted, the principal streets widened, and such other improvements effected as have raised it to the rank of a commodious commercial town. It has been conjectured by some antiquaries that Mansfield was a Roman station, and this opinion is materially strengthened by the discovery of coins of Vespasian, Constantine, Marcus Aurelius, and others, and by the vestiges of exploratory camps, which are to be found in the vicinity. During the Saxon heptarchy the town seems to have been the occasional residence of the kings of Mercia, who came here for the purpose of enjoying the sports of the chase. In the time of Edward the Confessor Mansfield was a royal domain, and was con-

tinued as such by William the Conqueror. The town long remained in the possession of the Crown, and from its vicinity to the forest was not unfrequently visited by the kings of England when on their hunting expeditions. In 1227 Henry III. granted a charter, permitting a weekly market to be held in Mansfield, and three years later he allowed the townsmen the privilege of having "housebote and haybote" within the forest of Sherwood. In 1377 Richard II. granted an annual fair, to be held on the feast of St Peter. Henry VIII. gave the manor of Mansfield to the Earl of Surrey, in reward for his gallant conduct at Flodden Field, but it afterwards reverted to the Crown, and eventually came into the hands of a branch of the Cavendish family, and descended from them to the present lord of the manor, the Most Noble the Duke of Portland. Mansfield appears to have been twice visited by serious conflagrations, for Harrod, a local writer, says that, in 1546, "Coll. Davy wilfully set the town on fire, whereby was burned 131 bays of buildings, and she was hanged at the next assizes, at Nottingham, for it;" and that, in 1581, "there was a casual fire in Stockwell Gate, whereby was burned 150 bays of houses and old Dunstan's wife." The Swainmote Court for the forest of Sherwood used formerly to be held in Mansfield, but all that remains of the custom is an annual feast on Holyrood Day (September the 14th). The old parish church of St Peter, which was given to the cathedral of Lincoln by William II., is a venerable, though by no means a particularly fine, structure, consisting of a nave and chancel, with north and south aisles continued on either side of the chancel, and a square tower, dating from the twelfth century, and surmounted by an upper stage and a short

spire in the Decorated style of architecture. The huge unsightly galleries and high pews which once disfigured the interior of the building have recently been removed, and the entire fabric has been most efficiently restored at considerable expense. Beneath an arched recess in the south aisle is the recumbent effigy of a female in a short gown, said to represent Dame Cecily Flogan, who lived in an ancient timbered house in Church Street, now the "White Hart" inn, and who bequeathed, in 1521, that house, with many other lands and tenements, to the church for a priest to say masses for the repose of her soul, and likewise gave certain other lands for the maintenance of a stout and able bull and boar for the use of the parish. A stone coffin and several mutilated fragments of ancient sepulchral slabs are to be found in the north aisle, and such mural monuments as the church contained are now crowded together in the lower part of the tower. Amongst these may be found one to Wandsley Blackwell, Esq., 1634; one, dated 1774, to William Sterne, Gent., a kinsman of Dr Richard Sterne, Archbishop of York, whose family resided in this place; and another very quaintly inscribed to Margaret, wife of Joseph Meynott, of Mansfield, mercer, "a person of extraordinary endowments and exemplary goodness, remarkable in that she departed this life on the same day on which her beloved and justly admired sovereign Queen Anne, of pious memory, changed her earthly crown for a more exceeding weight of glory." Besides the parish church there is also a handsome district church, dedicated to St John, built in the Decorated style in 1856, partly at the expense of the late John Gally Knight, Esq., who left a special bequest for the purpose. There are likewise several meeting-houses

for the various dissenting congregations, of which that belonging to the Unitarians is one of the oldest conventicles in the county, whilst that of the Wesleyans was once an old family mansion, occupied by some of the Stanhopes, and erroneously reputed to have been the birthplace of the celebrated Earl of Chesterfield. The market-place, in which a weekly market is held each Thursday, was much improved some years ago by the removal of Spittaler's Gate, a pile of ancient buildings that caused a dangerous contraction in the entrance from the Nottingham road, and by the demolition of a row of shops that occupied the very centre of the area. A fine memorial of the late Lord George Bentinck, in the form of an elaborate and well-designed Gothic cross, erected by public subscription in 1849, now stands in the middle of the market-place, the general appearance of which is very greatly enhanced thereby. The Town Hall, a plain brick edifice, built in 1836, occupies the western side, and on the northern side is the Moot Hall, built in 1752 by the Countess of Oxford, whose armorial bearings adorn the pediment. A free grammar school was founded here by Queen Elizabeth in 1561; and there is likewise a charity school, founded in 1725 by Mrs Faith Clerkson. In the neighbouring valley are several extensive cotton and silk mills, which, together with the numerous stocking frames and bobbin-net machines, furnish employment for a large proportion of the inhabitants. There are also several corn-mills and malting establishments, and various brass and iron foundries, and near the town are some valuable quarries of red and white freestone, and several quarries of red sand, which latterly has gained great notoriety for its excellence for moulding purposes. The Cemetery,

which was opened in 1857, is very picturesquely situated upon the slopes of a hill, near the Nottingham road, about a mile from the town. Here is a handsome mausoleum, belonging to the Walker family, of Bury Hill, and here also is a fine monument, beneath which rest the remains of the late Colonel Wildman, of Newstead Abbey. The environs of Mansfield are not only wild and picturesque, but are pregnant with traditions of illustrious personages. The King's Mill, situated in a deep valley, about a mile to the south-west of the town, is reputed to have been the scene of the incidents commemorated in the old ballad of "the King and the Miller of Mansfield," but it is more likely that the mill obtained its name from its situation within the limits of the royal manor. At Hamleton Hill, not far from here, Henry II. is said to have lost himself whilst out hunting; and at Low Hardwick, in the same direction, Cardinal Wolsey rested when on his journey to Leicester Abbey, only a few days before his decease; whilst on Mansfield Moor there was once a hermitage, to which Thomas Beck, sometime Bishop of Lincoln, retired to end his days. Upon an elevated situation, about a mile and a half to the south-south-east of Mansfield, is Bury Hill, a spacious and handsome mansion, now the seat and property of Edward William Walker, Esq., J.P.; and near here are the remains of an extensive Roman encampment. Pleasley Hill, a hamlet picturesquely situated about three miles to the north-west of Mansfield, is divided from the village of Pleasley, in Derbyshire, by the river Medin, which flows through a deep and narrow glen, bordered by limestone rocks, broken into a thousand romantic shapes, and fringed with overhanging woods and plantations. In Pleasley Park may be found very

evident traces of an ancient camp or fortification, apparently of Roman origin, having a double vallum and entrenchment, two sides of which are defended by natural precipices. Here, also, are some remains of a very interesting Roman *villa urbana*, discovered in 1786. It may be added that Mansfield was the birthplace of William de Mansfield, a Dominican friar of the fifteenth century, highly esteemed for his great proficiency "in logics, ethics, physics, and metaphysics;" Dr Humphrey Ridley, a learned medical writer of the seventeenth century; and Dr Richard Sterne, Archbishop of York, whose third son, Simon, was grandfather of the celebrated Lawrence Sterne, a man whose reputation as one of the finest writers in the English language is fixed upon the firmest basis.



## EXCURSION VII.

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### *FROM MANSFIELD, THROUGH CLIPSTONE, TO THE DUKERY AND SHERWOOD FOREST.*

LEAVING Mansfield by the old road, known as the "Leeming Street," which possibly dates from the time of the ancient Britons, passing through Mansfield Woodhouse (which will be more particularly noticed hereafter), and proceeding for a few miles further, the tourist enters that truly beautiful and pre-eminently aristocratic district, known as "the Dukery," from the number of dukes at one time residing in the immediate vicinity. Of these, the Duke of Newcastle still resides at Clumber, as does the Duke of Portland at Welbeck Abbey, whilst in the neighbouring county of Derby, immediately contiguous to this district, the Duke of Devonshire yet retains his ancient seat at Hardwick ; but the Dukes of Norfolk no longer possess their stately mansion at Worksop, the Dukes of Leeds have abandoned their seat at Kiveton Park, in the adjacent county of York, and the Dukes of Kingston, once seated at Thoresby, are now extinct. It should be added that this favoured district occupies all that part of the area of Sherwood Forest, where the most palpable traces of that famous sylvan tract are preserved. A little beyond Mansfield Woodhouse, a road on the right, leading to Clipstone, passes through an estate belonging to the Duke of Portland, which is well worth a visit from all who are interested in agricultural improvements. This road runs for some distance by

the side of a canal of irrigation, formed by the duke at a cost of upwards of £80,000, and called the "Duke's Flood Dyke," by which the stream of the river Maun, augmented by the sewerage and washings of the neighbouring town of Mansfield, is distributed by minor cuts, tiled drains, and sluice-gates, along the slopes below it, and has converted what was once a barren and unprofitable valley, whose sides were one vast rabbit warren, overgrown with gorse and heather, and the bottom a swamp, producing only hassocks and rushes, into a fertile and highly-productive tract of meadow and pasture-land, yielding three crops of grass annually. Beyond these famous "water meadows," in the most picturesque part of the valley of the Maun, about five miles east-north-east of Mansfield, may be found the ruins of Clipstone Palace, said to have originally been erected by one of the Saxon kings of Northumbria, and subsequently a favourite resort of the kings of England, who came here to hunt in Sherwood Forest. Henry II. made Clipstone Palace his residence on more than one occasion, and it was here that Richard I., on his return from the Crusades, received the congratulations of William the Lion, King of Scotland, and John was so frequently at Clipstone, that the ruins are called "King John's Palace" to this day. The ruins themselves present very little worthy of notice, nothing remaining beyond a few broken walls, whose bare outline is only relieved by a luxuriant mantle of ivy. By the side of the Worksop road, upwards of a mile from Clipstone Palace, stands the "Parliament Oak," one of the oldest trees remaining in Sherwood Forest, beneath the boughs of which King John is said to have summoned a parliament on receiving the intelligence of the insurrection in Wales,

in 1212. Not far from Clipstone is a beautiful stone archway in the Perpendicular style, richly adorned with carving appropriate to its situation in Sherwood Forest, and locally known as "the Duke's Folly," which was built by the late Duke of Portland in 1842, after the model of the venerable gatehouse of Worksop Priory, and now serves as a free school for the district. Nearly two miles to the north-east of the ruins of Clipstone Palace, amidst some of the finest old woodland scenery in England, is EDWINSTOWE. This charming forest village derives its designation from Edwin, King of Northumbria, who was slain in battle in 633, and whose remains, according to a somewhat doubtful tradition, rest beneath the spot now occupied by the parish church, a fine old structure, with a lofty spire of peculiarly elegant design.

Upwards of a mile and a half beyond Edwinstowe is OLLERTON, a small market-town, with a population of 831 persons. It is pleasantly situated in a well-wooded valley, near the confluence of the rivers Maun and Rainworth Water. Here is a tolerably good inn (the Hop Pole), where the tourist will find comfortable quarters, from which excursions may conveniently be made to all the most interesting places in Sherwood Forest and "the Dukery." The town itself is a dull little place, presenting nothing of any note, and the market, which is held each Friday, is but of trifling importance. The chapel-of-ease is a plain modern structure, rebuilt about a century ago. A quaint inscription upon a headstone in the chapel-yard to Francis Thompson, 1739, is worthy of notice. Some part of the old hall, a venerable brick and stone mansion, formerly the seat of a branch of the Markham

family, yet remains, having a fine doorway and spacious entrance-hall, with a large and handsome staircase leading to the apartments on the upper story. Cockglode, an old mansion near here, is the residence of Cecil George Savile Foljambe, Esq.

RUFFORD ABBEY, which lies nearly two miles south-south-west of Ollerton, and about two miles beyond Edwinstowe, is now the seat and property of Henry Savile, Esq., J.P., but was anciently a monastery of Cistercian monks, founded in 1148 by Gilbert de Gaunt, Earl of Lincoln. After the expulsion of the monks the site and possessions of this establishment, together with many other manors in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere, were granted by Henry VIII. to George, fifth Earl of Shrewsbury, in exchange for large estates in Ireland, which he had given up to the Crown. The Rufford estate subsequently came into the hands of Sir George Savile, of Barrowby, in Lincolnshire, who was created a baronet by James I., in 1611, and whose descendant of the same name was created Marquis of Halifax in 1682; but the peerage became extinct on the death of the second marquis in 1700. Upon the death, in 1784, of Sir George Savile, eighth and last baronet, the property passed, through the marriage of Sir George's sister with the fourth Earl of Scarborough, into the hands of the noble family of Lumley; and the present owner inherited the same under the will of the eighth Earl of Scarborough, who died in 1856. The mansion, which is approached on the western side through an avenue of noble lime trees, is very beautifully situated near the northern extremity of an undulating and well-timbered deer-park, fronted on the north-east by an extensive lake, skirted by thick woods and flourishing plantations. The principal

entrance has a fine gateway, erected by the late Earl of Scarborough. It is difficult, at this time, to say how much of the present building is a remnant of the original Abbey. The masonry of the southern end of the house is at any rate as old as the days of George, fifth Earl of Shrewsbury, the first lay possessor, and is probably much older; but the interior arrangements have been so far altered from time to time, as to leave little trace of the plan of the original conventual buildings. A very considerable portion of the mansion seems to have been built in the seventeenth century, by George Savile, first Marquis of Halifax. The Servants' Hall, which exhibits traces of considerable antiquity, is believed to have formed the refectory, or parlour of the monks; and the Brick Hall, a stately apartment, with a raised dais, spacious music gallery, lofty open roof, and splendidly carved oaken screen, inscribed with the motto, "*Murus cœneus conscientia sana*," probably also dates from before the dissolution of the monastery, although it certainly assumed its present appearance not earlier than the time of Queen Elizabeth. The Brick Hall was carefully restored and appropriately refitted and embellished by the late Earl of Scarborough, who effected numerous other improvements on the mansion, and, during the work of restoration, a very curious old crypt beneath the hall was brought to light, which now constitutes one of the most attractive and interesting features of the abbey. Thoroton says, "This place hath often entertained King James, and King Charles, his son, being very pleasant and commodious for hunting in the forest of Sherwood." William III. visited here in 1695, and George III., when Prince of Wales, was also a guest at Rufford Abbey, and a room, hung with old tapestry, is yet

named after him. Amongst the numerous paintings which adorn the interior of this mansion, the following seem more especially worthy of notice :—A boar hunt, by *Snyders* ; two fine sea pieces, by *Backhaysen* ; curious old portraits of Henry VIII., Anne Boleyn, Edward VI., and Queen Elizabeth ; two views of Rome, by *Caliavari* ; a full-length portrait of Sir Henry Savile, tutor to Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards Provost of Eton ; portraits of Sir George Savile, the first baronet ; Thomas, Lord Coventry, keeper of the Privy Seal ; Sir William Savile, and his son, the first Marquis of Halifax, with his two wives ; a fine portrait of the fifth Earl of Shrewsbury ; and a very beautiful portrait, by *Sir Joshua Reynolds*, of Barbara, Countess of Scarborough. The chapel has some fine old gilded tapestry on stamped leather, and peculiarly carved finials on the seats, and other interesting features. At North Laithes, which lies at some little distance to the south-east of the Abbey, may be found some remains of the ancient grange, or farmstead of the monks.

WELLOW, which is situated upwards of a mile east-south-east of Ollerton, is a considerable rural village, built around a spacious village-green, in the centre of which rises a lofty May-pole—the last remaining in Nottinghamshire, and one of the very few now to be found in England. The church, which is dedicated to St Swithin, is a small uninteresting structure of no great antiquity, containing nothing worthy of remark. Not far from the church stands the old Hall, formerly the seat and property of Sir Francis Molyneux, Bart., but which has been converted into a district hospital and dispensary for the benefit of the sick and infirm poor of the neighbourhood. Near here was anciently

a considerable place called Grymston, no trace of which can now be found ; tradition relates that it was entirely destroyed by a fearful earthquake, and wonderful stories are told of the ghosts, who are said to haunt its site, by the country people, who affirm that upon old Christmas-day, the church bells of Grymston may be heard ringing merry peals beneath the ground !

The high road from Ollerton to Worksop, after crossing the river Maun, on the outskirts of the town, passes through the hays of Birkland and Bilhagh, which together form a wild and open forest tract, still containing many large and venerable oaks in every stage of perfection and decay, and presenting an expanse of natural woodland scenery, the general aspect of which has probably altered but little since the days of Robin Hood and his men. Birkland and Bilhagh remained in the possession of the Crown until 1818, when they were given to the late Duke of Portland in exchange for the advowson of the church of St Mary-le-bone, in London, but Bilhagh is now the property of Earl Manvers. The ancient oak forest in Birkland occupies a gentle eminence running from east to west, and opening on the northern side upon extensive tracts of bracken and heather, relieved by a few old trees, and intersected by mossy rides and paths, stretching to within a short distance of the little village of Budby, which is hidden from view by a broad belt of fir trees, running along the north-eastern border of Birkland to Thoresby Park, into which the forest itself extends on the east. North of Budby is a wide expanse of open forest of rare beauty, golden with gorse in spring, glowing with the bright purple of the heather in summer, and rich in every hue of golden brown when the bracken becomes tinged with the

varied tints of autumn. Perhaps the best route for the pedestrian would be to enter the forest by the broad turf ride, commencing at the "Duke's Folly," at Clipstone, and after proceeding through Birkland for some distance, turn to the right by the "Broad Riding" leading to Bilhagh, and enter Thoresby Park immediately beyond the high road from Ollerton. The tourist should not fail to notice "Simon the Forester's oak," a gigantic specimen of forest growth, and "Robin Hood's shambles," another noble tree, having a hollow trunk, in which twelve persons may stand together; but by far the finest tree in this part of Sherwood Forest is the "Major oak," the trunk of which has a circumference of 30 feet at 6 feet from the ground, whilst that of the branches, at their greatest extent, is no less than 240 feet. In 1609, there were in Birkland and Bilhagh altogether 49,909 oaks, but between that time and 1790, 27,199 of these had been cut down, and since then a considerable number have been felled. As an example of the antiquity of some of the oaks in this part of Sherwood Forest, it may be noted that the late Major Haymann Rooke estimated the age of one felled in Birkland, in 1791, at seven hundred and six years! This ancient tree actually bore the cipher of King John, which was found at about 12 inches from the centre, and 18 inches within the surface.

THORESBY PARK, the seat and property of the Right Hon. the Earl Manvers, occupies a large portion of Bilhagh, and presents a continuation of wild forest scenery, scarce surpassed in all England, the general effect of which is here enhanced by the numerous herds of fallow deer, whose graceful forms, seen amidst the venerable timber, carry the imagination back to



those times when they roved at their own free will in "merrie Sherwood." A broad carriage drive, of a mile in length, passing through a superb grove of old oak trees, gnarled and stag-headed, leads from the "Buck Gate" to the Hall, a magnificent stone mansion, recently erected by the present earl from designs by *Salvin*. The original mansion, which was built here in the seventeenth century by the Pierrepont family, and which was the birthplace of the celebrated Lady Mary Wortley Montague, was entirely destroyed by fire in 1745, when nothing was saved except the family papers, the plate, and some of the best paintings and furniture. A large square brick structure, aptly described as "rather a comfortable house than a magnificent seat," was subsequently erected by the last Duke of Kingston, upon the site of the old hall, but this second mansion was taken down about five years ago, and replaced by the present stately edifice, which occupies another and a far pleasanter site, and may be justly considered as one of the most splendid modern additions to that long roll of baronial halls that form one of the proudest features of our native land. Externally the principal fronts measure 180 feet on the east or principal entrance, 159 feet on the west, and 182 feet on the south or drawing-room side. The interior of the mansion is fitted throughout with oak grown in the neighbouring forest, and is adorned with a fine collection of family portraits and some good paintings. The great hall, a fine and richly-decorated apartment, 65 feet long, 31 feet wide, and 48 feet high to the apex of the open hammer-beam roof, and the library, with its magnificently-carved chimney-piece and beautiful panelling in Birkland oak, should both be specially noticed as the best features of the mansion.

The terrace is tastefully laid out, having an octagonal fountain in the centre and four smaller ones round it, while gazebos of octagonal form, surmounted by Elizabethan perforated tracery, appropriately close the vista at either end. The beautiful grounds are embellished with a fine lake, supplied by the waters of the river Medin, and the park itself is upwards of thirteen miles in circumference. Taking the road on the right of the mansion, and quitting the Thoresby domain, the tourist enters Clumber Park.

CLUMBER PARK, the seat and property of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, is immediately contiguous to Thoresby, being about five miles north-north-west of Ollerton, and four miles south-east of Worksop. Within the limits of this park, which extends over about 4,000 acres, are the remains of two old woods of venerable oaks, called Clumber Wood and Hardwick Wood, but except these there is little to remind the tourist that he is still in the very heart of Sherwood Forest. Scarcely more than a century ago the site of the park and grounds was "little more than a black heath, full of rabbits, having a narrow river running through it, and a small boggy close or two," so that the woods and plantations around the mansion are of comparatively modern origin, whilst the undeniable beauty of the surrounding scenery is due to art rather than nature. Clumber formerly belonged to the Cavendishes, Dukes of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and passed eventually, through the marriage of a daughter and coheirress of the second duke, into the possession of Thomas Pelham Holles, fifth Earl of Clare, who was created Duke of Newcastle-under-Lyne in 1756, with special remainder to his nephew, Henry Pelham Clinton, ninth Earl of Lincoln, who, upon the death

of his uncle in 1768, became second Duke of Newcastle, of the second line, and was the direct ancestor of the present noble owner. The house itself, which was built, about 1770, by the second Duke of Newcastle-under-Lyne, is a large and commodious structure of white freestone, and although not imposing externally, from want of height, possesses a combination of splendour and comfort within rarely to be met with. During the absence of the duke and his family the mansion is shown to visitors, and here will be found a small collection of good paintings, chiefly of the Netherlands school. Amongst the most remarkable of these are—"Sigismunda weeping over the heart of Tancred," a reputed *Corregio*; two fine landscapes, by *Poussin*; four views of Venice, by *Canalietti*; two female heads, tasting and smelling, by *Reubens*; a portrait of an orator, by *Rembrandt*; *Artemisia*, by *Guido*; and whole length portraits of George II. and Queen Caroline, by *Sir Godfrey Kneller*. The state dining-room, a magnificent apartment, capable of accommodating 150 guests, contains four grand market pieces, by *Snyders*; a large painting of dead game by *Weenix*; two landscapes, by *Zucharelli*; and several good portraits. The great drawing-room has a portrait of *Rembrandt*, by himself; two animals fighting, by *Snyder*; the Virgin attended by angels, by *Michael Angelo*, and many other fine paintings; and here, too, are several handsome inlaid tables and cabinets of Indian workmanship, given to a former duke by Lord Combermere. In the breakfast-room, the portrait of a lady, by *Titians*; a sea-piece, by *Ruysdael*; the portrait of a lady in a blue dress, by *Vandyck*; a curious and rare painting of the Virgin and Child, by *Albert Dürer*; and the portraits of Charles I., Cardinal Imperiali,

and Oliver Cromwell, should be specially remarked. The small dining-room contains an exquisite Holy Family, by *Battoni*; two fine fruit and flower pieces, by *Van Vos*; and several good paintings, by *Teniers*, *Salvata Rosa*, *Rosa de Tivoli*, and others. The library is one of the best apartments in the mansion, and contains a beautifully-chiselled statue of Euphrosyne, by *Westmacott*; and in the adjacent reading-room, which is divided from the library by a Corinthian arch with fluted columns of polished jasper, are several good bronze casts, and a well-executed statue of Venus. There is a very beautiful chimney-piece of statuary marble (originally at Fonthill Abbey), in the smoking-room; and conspicuous amongst the numerous works of art which adorn the lofty and spacious entrance-hall is a colossal statue of Napoleon, by *Emanuella Franzoni*. On the south front of the house is a fine terrace and garden, laid out in the Italian style by the fourth Duke of Newcastle, by whom this part of the grounds was adorned with numerous handsome vases of marble, brought from Worksop Manor; and here, too, is a magnificent fountain, the basin of which was cut out of a solid block of white marble, weighing no less than 50 tons when got from the quarry. From this part of the garden are broad flights of steps leading down to the waters of a beautiful artificial lake, three miles in length, and covering an area of about two hundred acres. The pleasure-grounds extending along the margin of the lake are well designed, and abound in fine trees; the cedars of Lebanon, yews, oaks, and Norwegian silver spruce firs being especially remarkable. The kitchen gardens are of a size proportionate to the mansion, and have a range of conservatories, 1,300 feet in length. Near the mansion stands a large and

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handsome chapel in the earlier French Gothic style, commenced by the present duke as a memorial of his father, but the building has remained for several years in an unfinished condition.

WELBECK ABBEY, the seat of His Grace the Duke of Portland, lies nearly four miles westward of Clumber, in the midst of a beautiful and thickly-timbered deer-park, eight miles in circumference, and extending over an area of 2,283 acres, in which may be found some of the grandest oaks in England—gigantic and solitary survivors of the thousands that flourished here in the days when Sherwood Forest was in its prime. Foremost amongst these is the venerable "Greendale oak," supposed to be upwards of seven hundred years old, which stands on the south side of the great lake, midway between the Abbey and the little village of Norton. This once stately tree, the trunk of which measures upwards of 50 feet in circumference, is now in the last stage of decay, being supported wholly by props, yet one branch still shows signs of vitality, and annually puts forth its crop of leaves and acorns. In 1724 its decay was hastened by the wanton mutilation of the trunk, through which a carriage drive was cut by the Earl of Oxford, who is said to have driven through it in his coach and four, in fulfilment of a wager which he had laid. On the northern side of the park are two old stag-headed oaks of great magnitude, known as the "Porters," from their position on either side of what was once one of the entrances to the park; and not far from them is the "Duke's Walking-stick," a flourishing oak tree, upwards of 100 feet in height. Upon the site now occupied by the mansion there once stood an abbey of Præmonstratensian monks, founded in the reign of

Stephen, by Thomas de Cuckney, Lord of Cuckney, who richly endowed it, and dedicated it in honour of St James. Some years after the dissolution of the monastery Welbeck came into the hands of Sir Charles Cavendish, of Bolsover Castle, the youngest son of that famous lady, "Bess of Hardwick." His son and successor was the first Duke of Newcastle, and the second duke having no male issue, this estate passed, through the marriage of his third daughter and coheirress, to John Holles, Earl of Clare, who was subsequently created Duke of Newcastle, and whose only daughter and heiress married Edward Harley, second Earl of Oxford, by whom she had an only daughter and heiress, who carried the property into the noble family of Bentinck, through her marriage with the second Duke of Portland. The greater part of the mansion itself, which is a large stone structure flanked by square battlemented towers, lying rather low and near the margin of the lake, was erected in 1604 by Sir Charles Cavendish, but the chapel, together with the vaults beneath the house and the doorways leading to them, as well as some portion of the outer walls, are parts of the old conventual buildings. The first Duke of Newcastle, who is remembered principally from his devoted loyalty, and from his quaint "Treatise on Horsemanship," greatly improved the mansion and added the noble riding-house, still standing, which was erected by him about 1623, from a design by Smithson, a noted architect of that day. This same nobleman thrice entertained Charles I. at Welbeck, and on the occasion of his second visit, Ben Jonson's interlude of "Love's Welcome" was performed here, and "there was such excess of feasting as had scarcely ever been known in

England," and which cost the duke no less than £15,000. When the present Duke of Portland succeeded his father in 1854, he commenced making great alterations on the Abbey and the surrounding estate, and ever since then he has devoted a princely income in carrying out improvements, which for their cost, and the number of workmen employed, far surpass anything hitherto attempted by any private individual; even the well-known building propensities of the noble duke's famous ancestress, "Bess of Hardwick," are here far outdone. Another story has been added to the south front, or "Lady Oxford's wing," of the Abbey, and this has added greatly to the imposing effect of the structure when viewed from the head of the lake. The fine old riding-house has been thoroughly restored and superbly decorated, and converted into a picture gallery, and very many other costly alterations have been effected, not the least important of which are the immense cellars and the numerous subterraneous passages connecting the various parts of the Abbey, some of which are even furnished with lines of rails. The pseudo-Gothic displayed in some parts of the interior of the mansion is in extremely bad taste, the fan tracery and pendants of one roof being formed of basket work, overlaid with stucco. The various apartments contain a numerous and fine collection of paintings, but as the mansion is never open to visitors upon any occasion, the passing tourist is unable to inspect these valuable works of art. The great dining-room is adorned with a portrait of William Cavendish, first Duke of Newcastle; and a very fine full-length portrait of the unfortunate Earl of Strafford, both by *Vandyck*; together with portraits of Sir Hugh Middleton, and the poet, Matthew Prior,

and other good paintings. In the saloon are portraits of "Bess of Hardwick," the Countess of Oxford, Lady Catherine Darnley (a natural daughter of James II.), and various members of the Cavendish family; and also several fine enamels of Scriptural subjects. The morning room contains a fine portrait of Archbishop Laud, by *Vandyck*; and in other apartments are portraits of Lucy, Countess of Carlisle; Sir Kenelm and Lady Digby, with their two sons; and Philip, Earl of Pembroke, all by the same artist. Here are also several good portraits by *Sir Joshua Reynolds*; Moses in the Bulrushes, by *Murillo*; St John in the Wilderness, by *Caracci*; a portrait of Admiral Tromp, by *Cornelius Jansen*; a Magdalen, by *Titiens*; the Holy Family, by *Raphael*; an elaborate representation of the Tower of Babel, by *Brugher* and *Old Franks*; poultry, by *Hondekoeter*; and several hunting-pieces attributed to *Snyders*. The chapel, which is fitted throughout like a parish church, yet retains several old incised slabs, inscribed with crosses, and in various parts of the house ancient sepulchral memorials remain concealed behind the tapestry and panelling. The gardens and pleasure-grounds are of very considerable extent, abounding in choice plants and trees, and here are many unusually fine specimens of the rarer varieties of the fir tribe; the cedars and auricarias in the Pinetum, near Carburton, being especially noticeable. Immense sums of money have been expended by the present duke in the construction of a great lake here, and in various other improvements about the park and gardens which are still in progress. One of the duke's most extraordinary works has been the formation of a subterranean roadway, nearly a mile and a half in length, through a portion of the park and under the



lake, in place of an ancient highway which existed above it. At the terminus of this tunnel, the most magnificent riding-house, stables, and timber-yards in the kingdom have lately been erected, and around the stables are arranged other domestic offices, built at enormous expense upon a similar scale of magnificence.

## EXCURSION VIII.

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### *FROM MANSFIELD, THROUGH A PART OF SHERWOOD FOREST, TO BLIDWORTH.*

RETURNING to Mansfield, and entering another part of the forest, now mainly under cultivation, the tourist reaches BLIDWORTH, a straggling roadside village, stretching like a breastwork on the summit of a long ridge of high ground, situated about five miles south-south-east of Mansfield, in the very heart of old Sherwood Forest.\* Upon a natural platform in the centre of a wide amphitheatre, on the western side of the village, stands a singular object, commonly known as "the Druid's stone." This isolated mass of rock, which is about 14 feet in height, and 84 feet in circumference, is partly hollow, and the opening exactly faces the sunrise on the 21st of June. A few yards distant is a similar mass, embedded in a natural cavity, and close by is a mound strongly resembling the burrows with which many parts of Wiltshire are studded. The whole parish is rich in memories of Robin Hood, who is said to have once dwelt on the spot where the vicarage-house now stands, and where an old stone bowl, reputed to have been his wash-hand basin, is still preserved. Near Fountain Dale, the seat of Lieut.-Colonel Arthur Need, J.P., which lies about a

\* The tourist who wishes to learn more about this interesting parish, is referred to "Some Historical Memorials of the Ancient Parish and Parish Church of Blidworth," a small pamphlet, recently compiled by the Rev. R. H. Whitworth, the present Vicar of Blidworth, and from which the above account has been abridged.

mile and a half to the north-west of Blidworth, Copmanhurst yet remains, to attest to the existence of Friar Tuck, whose cell stood by the banks of the Rain, a little stream which forms the lake at Fountain Dale, and the stones of which it was built were only removed from the spot a few years ago and devoted to agricultural purposes. In the wood at Fountain Dale may yet be seen the moat into which Robin Hood was precipitated after his memorable combat with the curtal friar. Will Scadlock, or Scarlett, is reported to have found his last resting-place in Blidworth churchyard, and the ancient sculptured monumental frame on the wall of the church is stated to have once contained his epitaph. Cave Pond, near Blidworth, was a favourite resort of Robin Hood and his followers, and a deep excavation in the rock beneath the village, which was used as a wine cellar towards the close of the last century, is supposed to have been one of their storehouses for provisions and booty. Local tradition alleges that Robin Hood's famous exploit of robbing the Bishop of Hereford, and causing him to dance a saraband for the amusement of his followers, took place on the ancient road from Southwell, just beyond the confines of Blidworth parish. This road may still be traced, and it has acquired additional interest from the fact that over it was carried upon the backs of pack-horses a great part of the stone used in the erection of Southwell Minster. Within the last century a magnificent elm tree, known as Langton Arbor, stood in Blidworth Dale, on the southern side of the village, and not far from it was the site of an old hunting-lodge, said to have been frequented by King John. The Queen's Bower, beyond Blidworth Dale, is so called in commemoration of

Queen Elizabeth, who camped out on this spot during one of her progresses. The parish church of St Mary, which occupies a very elevated position towards the western extremity of the village, is especially remarkable for the beauty of its situation. The view southward from the churchyard is over a series of wide and receding undulations, terminating in the country near Nottingham. Looking northward, on a clear evening, the tower and spire of Laughton-en-le-Morthen, lying far away in Yorkshire, comes in sight, and the eye may sweep round the intervening country, taking in the town of East Retford, then Laxton, Kneesal, and many other churches, and, far behind them, the towers of Lincoln Minster, then Newark spire, until at length it rests upon the windows of Belvoir Castle, glowing with the rays of the departing sun. The church itself, with the exception of the tower, which dates from about the reign of Richard III., is comparatively modern, having been rebuilt in 1736, and considerably altered and enlarged since that time. Several ancient incised slabs in various parts of the church are worthy of notice, and there are also four good modern stained windows, two of which are from the atelier of *Maréchal et Champigneulle* of Metz, the artistes of many of the celebrated windows in the cathedral at Cologne. Numerous tablets to the Needs, Bilbies, and others, are upon the walls, but the most interesting memorial is a square alabaster frame of considerable antiquity, on which are, rudely carved in relief, the figures of a stag and three hounds, together with long-bows, cross-bows, fleshing knives, spears, swords, a hunting-horn, and other implements of the chase. Tradition says that this once formed a part of a monument to Will Scarlett, the companion of Robin Hood, but, be this as it may,

the frame now encloses a black marble slab, thus quaintly inscribed—

“Here rests T. Leake whose vertues weere so knowne  
In all these parts that this engraved stone  
Needs navght relate but his vntimely end  
Which was in single fight whylst youth did lend  
His aide to valour. Hee with ease o’er past  
Many slight dangers greater than this laste  
But willfolle fate in these things governs all  
Hee towld out three score yeeres before his fall  
Most of wch. tyme he wasted in this woode  
Mvch of his wealth and last of all his bloode.”

A.D. 1608.

The tourist will find a pleasant and a very picturesque way back into Mansfield by following the lane which passes the church and leads into the high road between Nottingham and Mansfield, upwards of half a mile from the gates of the Newstead domain. Nearly half a mile beyond this point the high road crosses the Rainworth Water, and runs for some considerable distance between two fine old woods, belonging to the Duke of Portland, called respectively Thieves’ Wood and Harlow Wood. On the right hand side of the road, near the bridge which spans the Rainworth Water, may be noticed a wayside monument, commonly known as “the murder stone,” erected in memory of a young woman who was cruelly murdered on this lonely spot some years ago. On the northern side of Harlow Hill, a little beyond the wood, stands a large square stone pillar, evidently the remains of an ancient cross, which marks the place where the forest officers of the Crown assembled annually at sunrise on Holyrood Day, to receive the charge of the Lord Chief-Justice in Eyre, to view the fences, and take an account of the deer, in order to make their presentments at the Swainmote Court, which was held on that day at Mansfield.

## EXCURSION IX.

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### *FROM MANSFIELD, BY WAY OF MANSFIELD WOODHOUSE, WARSOP, AND CUCKNEY TO WORKSOP AND ENVIRONS.*

MANSFIELD WOODHOUSE is pleasantly situated about a mile and a half to the north of Mansfield, and here, in the time of Henry VI., Sir Robert de Plumpton held certain lands under the Crown, by the service of winding a horn and frightening the wolves in the neighbouring forest of Sherwood! Relative to this place there was the following curious entry in the old forest book:—"Be it had in mynd that the towne of Mansfield Wodhouse was burned the Saturday nexte afore the fest of the Exaltation of the Holy Crosse, the yere of our Lorde, M.CCCC.III.; and the kirk stepull, with the belles of the same, for the stepull was afore of tymber werke: and part of the kyrk was burned." The church, which is dedicated to St Edmund, was almost entirely rebuilt about twenty years ago, with the exception of the tower and peculiar broach spire (probably erected after the destruction of the old wooden steeple in the fire just mentioned), and a small mortuary chapel, on the south side of the chancel, built about 1600 by Sir John Digby. A small "sanctus bell" still remains in the belfry. The east window of the chancel retains some vestiges of old stained glass, including the arms of the family of Dand, with the date 1617, and in the Digby chapel is a large monument, adorned with the effigies of Sir John and Lady Digby, whilst numerous other memorials are to

be found in various parts of the church. Outside the chancel is a tablet to William Tunstall, Esq., who, having joined the rebellion in 1715, was taken prisoner at Preston, and sentenced to be executed, but afterwards received a free pardon from the Crown, and died here in 1728. There is also a monumental stone to John MacDonald, who died in 1851, at the remarkable age of 102. Not far from the church stands the base of an old cross, and a little beyond is a fine old stone-gabled mansion called "Clerkson Hall," built in 1631 by William Clerkson, Esq., and occupied for several generations by his descendants. The curious plaster-work in the interior of this house is well worthy of inspection. Debdale Hall, which occupies a very picturesque situation in a narrow dale, or valley, on the western side of the village, is the property of Edward Thomas Coke, Esq., J.P.; and nearer the village are several spacious residences, occupied by Walter Need, Esq., J.P.; Mrs Robertson, William Shepherd Milner, Esq., and others. Park Hall, the seat of Francis Hall, Esq., J.P., lies about a mile beyond Mansfield Woodhouse, and in the same direction is Nettleworth Hall, now the residence of the Misses Fitzherbert, a handsome mansion, erected in 1785 upon the site of a much older house, which for many years was the seat of the family of Wyld, of whom was Gervase Wyld, an Andalusian merchant, who distinguished himself as captain of a ship of war in the engagement against the Spanish Armada in 1588. In the North Field, near the village, are some vestiges of a Roman villa, consisting of seven apartments with richly-painted walls, and having a fine mosaic pavement, composed of red, yellow, white, and grey *tesserae*. Near here very evident traces of a Roman burial-place were dis-

covered towards the close of the last century. On Winny Hill, an eminence near the eastern extremity of the village, are the remains of a Roman exploratory camp, of which the double ditch and vallum are still plainly to be seen on the right hand of the road leading to Warsop.

WARSOP, a considerable village, noted for its horse and cattle fairs, is pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Medin, about four miles beyond Mansfield Woodhouse. The parish church of St Peter and St Paul is a fine old structure, occupying a slightly elevated situation on the northern bank of the river. Within its walls may be found a mural monument, very quaintly inscribed to John Rolleston, of Rolleston, in Staffordshire, who fought for King Charles in the civil wars, and died in 1681; and a tablet to Dr Samuel Hallifax, successively Bishop of Gloucester and St Asaph, who was at one time rector of this church, and died in 1790. Some fragments of old stained glass may be noticed in the windows. Near Forest Hill, the residence of the Rev. Kirke Swann, which stands upon a lofty and commanding eminence, about three miles to the south of Warsop, a magnificent prospect may be obtained, embracing a very wide extent of country, stretching from the Peak of Derbyshire, on the one side, to the hills beyond Stamford, in Lincolnshire, on the other.

CUCKNEY, which lies about two miles and a half to the north of Warsop, was once the seat of a powerful and opulent family, deriving their surname from the place, the site of whose mansion may yet be traced. It is a somewhat remarkable fact, that at the Nottingham assizes in 1210, John de Cuckney, a younger son of this family, was, on the prosecution of a



neighbouring gentleman, Ralph de Edwinstowe, convicted of theft, and hanged for the offence. The heiress of the De Cuckneys married into the family of Fauconbridge, who held this manor by the singular feudal tenure of shoeing the King's palfrey, whenever he came to hunt in his forest of Sherwood. The church, which is a fine old structure, dedicated to St Michael, contains several old incised slabs, and a fine carved screen partitioning the nave from the chancel, and in the churchyard may be found a head-stone inscribed—

“ A long flattering sickness did me Greeve,  
No helpe nor medicin could me Releeve,  
then patiently i did Resign my Breath,  
in hopes to find more comfort after death.”

Langwith Hall, which lies near the borders of the county, about two miles from Cuckney, was formerly the occasional residence of Earl Bathurst, but is now the seat and property of Samuel William Welfitt, Esq., J.P. Not far from Langwith are Creswell Crags, remarkable for their singularly romantic scenery, although but little known, and consequently seldom visited by tourists. Leaving Cuckney for Worksop, we proceed northward for about five miles along a pleasant road, skirting the woods and parks of Welbeck Abbey and Worksop Manor, and commanding extensive prospects across the old forest.

WORKSOP is a well-built and thriving market-town (with a population of 10,409 persons), situated at a short distance from the banks of the little river Ryton, in a wide valley, formed by gently rising hills. It consists of two principal streets running at right angles, with a few smaller streets diverging from them, and an outlying suburb, known as Radford, lying on the

eastern side of the town. The Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln Railway passes on the northern side of the town, and has a station here. The tourist will find good accommodation at the Lion Hotel, in Market Street, near to where the weekly market is held each Wednesday. Here is an extensive trade in malting, and the town was once famed for its "great produce of liquorice," but there are no manufactures beyond some iron foundries for the making of agricultural implements, and several establishments where wooden chairs are made. Of the history of this place previous to the Norman invasion we know little, but the ancient tumuli and other remains still to be found in the Manor Park, near to the town, certainly strengthen the belief that Worksop was a British settlement.\* At the time of the Domesday Survey Worksop was in the hands of Roger de Busli, a powerful Norman Baron, but it subsequently became a part of the vast possessions of William de Lovetot, who had a castle upon a rock of red sandstone on the north-western side of the town, still known as "the Castle Hill," and it was he who founded here a great Priory of Austin canons, which was long the glory of the town. From the family of De Lovetot the Manor of Worksop passed, by marriage, to the De Furnivals, and from them, in like manner, through the Neviles to the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury, and after eight generations of that noble house had enjoyed possession of the property, it passed, through the marriage of a coheiress, to the Howards, then Earls of Arundel, and since Dukes of Norfolk. In 1840 the twelfth Duke of Norfolk sold the manor

\* Many interesting particulars are to be found in the "History, Antiquities, and Description of the Town and Parish of Worksop," by John Holland.

for £350,000 to the fourth Duke of Newcastle, whose grandson is the present lord of the manor. It should be added that this manor is held by the tenure of providing a glove for the sovereign's right hand at the coronation, and of supporting the right arm during such part of the ceremony as the sceptre is held by the monarch—a service which was duly performed at the coronation of our present gracious sovereign, Queen Victoria. In the suburb, called Radford, very considerable remains of the old Priory may yet be found. The Priory gatehouse, which is partly in the later Decorated and partly in the Perpendicular styles of architecture, will first arrest the attention of the visitor, who should not fail to notice specially the rich and beautiful Perpendicular porch, forming the entrance to the staircase leading to the upper part of the building. On the south front there still remain figures of the Virgin Mary and St Cuthbert, to whom the monastery was dedicated, together with a figure of St Augustin, the founder of this order of canons. The pediment also contains a niche with a superb canopy of tabernacle work, in which is a figure of the Trinity. The porch likewise exhibits mutilated representations, in *basso-relievo*, of the salutation of the Virgin Mary and the offering of the Magi. The mutilated base and shaft of an ancient cross, standing near the gatehouse, is believed to have formed a part of one of those crosses which are recorded to have been erected about 1160, by the hands of Richard de Lovetot, and William, his son. Beyond the gatehouse is the Priory church, a noble structure, dedicated to St Mary and St Cuthbert, originally forming the nave and side aisles of the old conventual church. The central tower, transepts, and chancel were

destroyed soon after the dissolution of the monastery in 1539, but the two western towers still remain, together with the ruined chapel of St Mary, a very beautiful specimen of Early English architecture, originally attached to the southern side of the chancel. The greater part of the nave is in that peculiar architecture which prevailed during the transition from the later Norman to the Early English style, with the exception of a portion at the eastern end, which is purely Norman. The south porch is an elaborate example of the later Perpendicular work, having a fine groined roof worthy of notice, and yet retaining one of the original oak doors, covered with old iron-work of very intricate and beautiful design. About thirty years ago the church was repaired and much improved at considerable expense; and in 1861 the entire fabric was thoroughly restored, and, although deprived of some of its finest and most important features, now ranks as one of the most noble ecclesiastical edifices of which Nottinghamshire can boast. Few of the old sepulchral monuments remain. In St Mary's chapel lay buried Sir William de Furnival, a younger son of the heiress of the De Lovetots, who, says Pigott, "was greatly endued with grace, for five candells perpetuall in that chapell he ordeyned to brynne afore our Ladye," but the slab which covered his grave was removed some years ago, and degraded to a common sink stone! In the wall of the north aisle is an arched recess of the thirteenth century, which once, doubtless, contained an effigy; and beneath the south tower may be found three mutilated alabaster figures, believed to represent Sir Thomas de Furnival, surnamed "the Hasty," who fought at the battle of Cressy, and died in 1366; a

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lady of the De Furnival family of about the same date; and Sir Thomas Nevile, brother of the first Earl of Westmoreland, who married the heiress of the De Furnivals, and died in 1406. Some remains of the old cloisters are to be found on the northern side of the church, north and east of the site of the Prior's house, with which they communicated through a very fine Norman doorway, yet remaining, and beyond this other vestiges of the old conventual buildings may be seen. At a short distance from the church, on the western side of the road, leading over the canal, is the Prior's well, famed for the purity of its waters, and so called from its having been resorted to by the priors and monks of Worksop, when more potent beverages were not in their way. Besides the parish church, there are also several meeting-houses, belonging to the various societies of dissenters, and a handsome Roman Catholic chapel, in the later Perpendicular style, built by the late Duke of Norfolk in 1840, which contains some good carved stalls, a very beautifully sculptured altar of white Roche Abbey stone, and several fine modern stained windows. Worksop Manor, once one of the most stately mansions in England, stands at a short distance from the town, in a thickly-timbered park, that was originally eight miles in circumference, and contained no less than 1,100 acres of land. Evelyn, in his "*Sylva*," speaks of this park as "a sweet delectable place," and mentions several remarkable trees growing within its limits, the boughs of one of which covered more than half an acre of ground, and measured upwards of 180 feet from the extreme ends of the opposite branches. The original mansion was commenced, before the middle of the fifteenth century, by the first Earl of Shrewsbury, and

was completed, towards the close of the following century, by the famous "Bess of Hardwick," the wife of the sixth earl, under whose directions it assumed such stupendous proportions that it contained no less than five hundred apartments. This noble mansion was entirely destroyed by fire in 1761, when the loss sustained in paintings, statuary, furniture, and books is estimated to have amounted to more than £100,000. Four years later another house was erected upon the same site, and had the original design been carried out this second mansion would probably have been the largest house in the kingdom; and although no more than one side of the intended quadrangle was completed, it formed so magnificent a residence that the visitor was struck with astonishment when told that it constituted only the fifth part of the original plan. After the purchase of the estate by the Duke of Newcastle, the fair proportions of the grand old park were sorely curtailed, and the demolition of the mansion was commenced, but some small portion was subsequently repaired and converted into a spacious residence, occupied for some years by the late Lord Foley. The events connected with Worksop Manor are fraught with interest. Here the fifth Earl of Shrewsbury entertained the haughty Cardinal Wolsey, and here that same nobleman assembled the militia of Nottinghamshire, and marched northward to oppose the "Pilgrimage of Grace." Here, too, the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots was confined in 1583, and some idea of the rigour of her captivity may be formed from a letter still extant, in which the Earl of Shrewsbury, writing from Worksop to Baldwin, Queen Elizabeth's secretary, emphatically denies that Mary had ever been permitted to walk in Sherwood Forest! In 1603,

James I., on his way from Scotland, upon his accession to the throne, after lodging for a night at the "Bear and Sun," in Doncaster, and "sitting down on a banke-side, near Blyth, to eate and drinke," was here most hospitably regaled, and here he was met by a band of "huntsmen all in greene, the chief of which, with a woodman's speech, did welcome him, offering his majestie to shewe him some game, which he gladly condescended to see; and with a traine set he hunted a good space, very much delighted." At last he went into the house, where he was so nobly received "with superfluitie of all things, that still every entertainment seem to exceed the other. In this place, besides the abundance of all provision and delicacie, there was most excellent soul-ravishing musique, wherewith his highness was not a little delighted." His Queen, together with the Prince of Wales, subsequently visited this mansion, and in 1616 James was himself again at Worksop Manor, and Charles I. was sumptuously entertained here in 1633.

SHIREOAKS, a large and pleasantly situated village, lying about two miles and a half west-north-west of Worksop, is believed to have been so called from a famous oak-tree that stood for several centuries on the spot where the three counties of Nottingham, Derby, and York converge. Here are some extensive coal-mines belonging to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, yielding from six to seven hundred tons of coal daily, which should be inspected by those tourists who are curious in such matters. In 1862 the late Duke of Newcastle erected a handsome church at this place, the foundation-stone of which was laid by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The chancel has recently been magnificently decorated as a memorial of

the noble founder. Here was once a fine old Hall, for many years the seat of the family of Hewitt, but the mansion has been dismantled, much of the timber felled, and the park divided into farms. A mile or so from Shireoaks, and just within the limits of Derbyshire, are the ruins of Steetley Chapel, a very complete specimen of the later and more enriched Norman architecture, which should by no means be left unvisited. Upwards of a mile from here is Gateford Hill, the seat of John Vessey Machin, Esq., J.P.

CARLTON-IN-LINDRICK, a considerable village, composed of the twopopulous hamlets of Carlton-in-Lindrick or South Carlton, and Kingston-in-Carlton, or North Carlton, lies about four miles to the north of Worksop. The church, which presents some traces of Norman workmanship, is mainly in the Perpendicular style, and was partly rebuilt in 1831. The vault of the Whites, of Wallingwells, is in the south aisle, where there are some memorials to that family. The Hall, which occupies a gentle eminence near South Carlton, is the seat and property of Robert Ramsden, Esq., J.P. About a mile westward of Carlton is Wallingwells.

WALLINGWELLS, now the seat of Sir Thomas Wolleston White, Bt., but anciently a Benedictine nunnery, was founded, in the reign of Stephen, by Ralph de Cheurolcourt, and subsequently called "St Mary's of Wallondewelles," from its situation amidst wells and springs. The mansion, which was originally erected out of the ruins of the conventual buildings, has undergone various modern alterations, though it still presents several features of interest, enhanced by the beauty of the situation. In 1829 several stone coffins were discovered here, one of which was found to contain the remains of Dame Margery Dourant, the second



prioress of the nunnery, who died in the time of Richard I. When the coffin was first opened the body was quite entire, but exposure to the air soon reduced it to a shapeless mass of dust; some part of the clothing, the shoes, and a silver chalice, however, remained perfect, and were carefully reinterred with the coffin. At the dissolution of this establishment, in the reign of Henry VIII., the nuns rejoiced in the possession of the comb of St Edmund, and a much venerated figure of the Virgin Mary, reputed to have been miraculously sent to the sisterhood when their convent was first erected. Some portion of the park attached to this mansion is in Yorkshire, and a long line of trees denotes the division of the two counties.

OSBERTON HALL, the residence of Francis John Savile Foljambe, Esq., M.P., situated about three miles east of Worksop, is a fine modern mansion, the front of which is adorned with a handsome portico, having four Ionic pillars supporting a richly ornamented architrave and pediment. The situation of this seat, amidst thriving woods and plantations of oak, elm, larch, and other forest trees, which here flourish in peculiar luxuriousness, is especially favourable, and the bold wooded elevation, crowned by the mansion itself, and washed at the base by the waters of a well-planned artificial lake, fringed with foliage, form a *coup d'œil* not easily surpassed. The interior of the mansion contains some good paintings and some antiquities, amongst which is a very curious carving in alabaster, representing the assassination of Thomas à Beckett, and supposed to have been the altar-piece of Beauchief Abbey, near Sheffield. Near the gardens stands a pretty little Norman church, built in 1833, in memory of the mother of the present possessor of the Osberton estate.

## EXCURSION X.

### *EAST RETFORD AND ENVIRONS.*

EAST RETFORD, a small though well-built and thriving market-town and borough, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Idle, nine miles east of Worksop, twenty miles north-north-west of Newark, and thirty-two miles north-north-east of Nottingham, is believed to have derived its name from an ancient ford across that river, the waters of which, flowing over a stratum of red clay, became tinged with that colour when disturbed by the passage of horses and cattle. At the last census East Retford had only a population of 3,194 persons, but the spacious market-place, surrounded by good regular buildings, and the several commodious streets branching from it, give the town an appearance of importance and respectability seldom met with in so small a place.\* The tourist will find here a very fair hotel (the White Hart), and numerous other inns of less pretension. The Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln and the Great Northern Railway companies together have a station at this place. No mention of East Retford is to be found in any document of an earlier date than the Domesday-book, and the historical events connected with the place are neither numerous nor important. In 1558, and again in 1664, the town was visited by the plague, when great numbers of the inhabitants fell victims to its ravages.

\* "The History of Retford," by John S. Piercy, contains the best account of this place; but having been published some years ago, it is now somewhat out of date, and is, moreover, difficult to obtain.

During the civil wars of the seventeenth century East Retford was frequently occupied by the royal troops, and in 1645 the town was honoured by the presence of Charles I., who passed through here on his journey from Doncaster to Newark. During the rebellion of 1745 upwards of six thousand English and Hanoverian troops were encamped upon the hills near the town, and the townsmen then witnessed the painful scene of the desecration of their venerable church, which was converted by the foreign cavalry into a stable for their horses, and considerably injured thereby. The town, which is an ancient borough by prescription, and was formerly a royal domain, was probably first incorporated about the close of the twelfth century, but the corporation was entirely reconstructed by James I., in 1607, who instituted a corporate body composed of two bailiffs, twelve aldermen, and a learned steward or recorder. The Municipal Reform Act of 1835 effected sweeping alterations, the two bailiffs being replaced by a mayor, and the number of aldermen being reduced to four. East Retford was first represented in Parliament about the year 1315, but in 1330 the burgesses petitioned the king to release them from this privilege, as "on account of their poverty, they were unable to pay the wages and expenses of their representatives;" and their prayer being granted, the right lay dormant until 1571, since which time the town has regularly returned two members to Parliament, except during the Commonwealth. For many years East Retford was unenviably notorious as the most rotten of rotten boroughs, and on several occasions narrowly escaped disenfranchisement. At the elections of 1818 and 1820, no less than 96 out of the total number of 124 voters were clearly proved at the bar of the House of

Lords to have sold their votes! Under the Reform Act of 1832, the franchise was extended to the freeholders of the hundred of Bassetlaw, so that the townsmen of East Retford now form a comparatively small portion of the constituency. The parish church of St Swithin, commonly known as the Corporation Church, is a fine old structure, consisting of a nave and chancel, with side aisles and transepts, at the intersection of which rises a handsome pinnacled tower, containing a musical peal of eight bells, given by the Corporation in 1835. The structure was formerly of considerably greater extent, but has suffered much, not only from the hand of time, but from various untoward accidents. It has been twice partly burnt down, first in 1528, and secondly in 1582, and in 1651, the tower, having been permitted to remain in a state of ruinous dilapidation, was blown down, and as it fell it appears to have destroyed the chancel, south transepts, and such of the chantry chapels as had escaped the ravages of the two fires. The tower, together with the chancel and south transept, were rebuilt about the year 1658, and the entire fabric has recently been completely and efficiently restored at considerable expense. The north transept, which is usually called "the Bishop's Choir," contains several mutilated incised slabs, which appear to have remembered John Rowley, 1455, John Smith, mercer, 1496, John Helwys, vicar of the parish, 1511, and John Denman, Esq., an ancestor of the late eminent Lord Denman, 1517. There are also numerous mural monuments, amongst which is one to Robert Sutton, Esq., a great benefactor to this town, who died in 1776, and another to Sir Wharton Amcotts, Bart., for many years representative in Parliament for this

borough, who died in 1807. The Town Hall, a handsome structure of brick, with stone dressings, standing in the market-place, was rebuilt a few years ago at the expense of the Corporation. The interior contains good portraits of James I., George II., and Queen Caroline ; and here are preserved the two handsome old silver-gilt maces, borne, on state occasions, before the mayor, and the curious old silver plate belonging to the Corporation. About the year 1552 a free grammar-school was founded at East Retford by Edward VI., the endowment of which was subsequently augmented by Sir John Hercy and others. In Carol Gate stands an Almshouse, or "Maise de Dieu," as it is called in an inscription upon the front of the building, founded in 1657 by Richard Sloswicke, "for the maintenance of six poor old men of good carriage and behaviour ;" and in Union Street there is another almshouse for eighteen poor aged women, rebuilt by the Corporation in 1823, the founder of which is unknown. Upon an eminence to the south-east of the town, formerly known as "Est-croc sic," and subsequently, as "Dominie Cross," there once stood the remains of an ancient stone cross, commonly called "the Broad Stone," and here, during the prevalence of the plague, the markets were held, in order that the country people might not be deterred, through fear of taking the infection, from bringing in their different wares for the use of the townsmen, who laid the money in payment for such commodities as they might require upon "the Broad Stone," and held aloof until the country people had retired. The stone was subsequently placed in the market-place, but was removed about the commencement of the present century to the place where the corn-market is now held.

WEST RETFORD, which appears to a stranger to form a portion of the town of East Retford, is only divided from the latter place by the river Idle. A dash of rural beauty pervades the greater part of the village, and many of the houses bear the stamp of antiquity. The church, which occupies a somewhat elevated situation in the centre of the village, is dedicated to St Michael and All Angels, and consists of a nave and chancel, with a south aisle, and a well-proportioned tower standing at the western end of the nave, and surmounted by a handsome crocketed spire of considerable height. The interior of the church, which has, unfortunately, been sorely disfigured by injudicious and tasteless modern alterations, presents but little of interest. In the chancel are two old incised slabs, one of which exhibits a cross with a chalice and clasped book, and is inscribed to Robert Holme, rector of this parish, 1452, whilst the other commemorates Barbara, wife of Edward Darrel, Esq., 1554. Built into the wall of the churchyard are the remains of an old cross, not unlike "the Broad Stone" at East Retford. Not far from the church stands the "Holy Trinity Hospital," founded in 1665 by John Darrel, Esq., M.D., whose residence it originally was, and who endowed it with all his hereditary estates in West Retford and Ordsall, for the maintenance of sixteen poor impotent men, with the Sub-Dean of Lincoln as their master and governor. The hospital buildings, which have attached to them a small chapel in which daily service is performed, were entirely rebuilt a few years ago. Here is also a free school, founded in 1725 by Mr Stephen Johnson. West Retford Hall, a spacious modern mansion, well situated upon the brow of a slight eminence near the village, is the seat and

property of Benjamin Huntsman, Esq., J.P. Leaving East Retford, and passing through the scattered districts of Moorgate and Spittal Hill, where there is a large but poorly designed modern church, the tourist reaches WELHAM, a small roadside village, pleasantly situated about a mile and a half to the east-north-east of East Retford, which derives its name from a noted spring, called "St John's Well," long famed for its medicinal virtues in scorbutic and rheumatic complaints, though now rarely frequented. Nearly in the centre of the village there formerly stood an ancient chapel, and within what is called "the chapel-yard" the marks of foundations are plainly discernible. Here, too, is a good old brick house, once the residence and property of the Otter family, of whom was Dr William Otter, who became Lord Bishop of Chichester in 1836.

In a narrow valley at the foot of a hill, about a mile beyond Welham, is CLARBOROUGH, a large, straggling village, on the south-eastern side of which stands the venerable parish church, dedicated to St John, founded and endowed in 1258 by Sewal, Archbishop of York, and recently restored at considerable expense.

At HAYTON, which lies nearly a mile west-north-west of Clarborough, there was formerly an old castle belonging to the De Hayton family, but no traces of it remain beyond some part of the moat, which has been converted into a fish pond. A large modern house, recently the residence of the late Robert Harts-horn Barber, Esq., stands about 300 yards from the ancient site, and is now generally known as "the Castle." From an eminence near this place, called Burnt Leys, a very fine prospect may be obtained, extending from the Sheffield and Derbyshire hills on

the west to Lincoln Minster on the south-east. At Tylne, a little hamlet, situated on the banks of the river Idle, upwards of a mile westward of the village of Hayton, several interesting antiquities have been discovered, amongst which was a fine British amulet, and a Roman stylus, and numerous seals cut on agate and cornelian.

CLAYWORTH lies upwards of two miles and a half to the north of Hayton, and has an old church, in which may be found numerous memorials of the Fitz-Williams, Ackloms, and other families, the oldest of which is to Humphrey Fitz-William, Esq., who died in 1556. The collector of whimsical epitaphs should notice the headstone in the churchyard, inscribed —

“Bless’d be he that set this stone,  
That I may not be forgotten ;  
And curst be he that moves my bones,  
Before that they be rotten.”

Here is a good free school, founded in 1702 by the Rev. William Sampson (whose monument, with a quaint Latin inscription, still remains in the church), and considerably augmented in 1813 by Francis Otter, Esq. Nearly a mile and a half to the north-west of the village, in a finely-timbered park, stands Wiseton Hall, a handsome mansion, built upwards of a century ago by the Acklom family, upon the site of an older house. The property was recently purchased by Joseph Laycock, Esq., of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Wiseton Hall is now occupied by his son, Robert Laycock, Esq., J.P. Beyond Wiseton is Drakeholes, a small hamlet, believed to have been a minor Roman station, and upwards of a mile to the south-west of Drakeholes is Mattersey.



MATTERSEY is a well-built village, very pleasantly situated upon a gentle rising ground on the western bank of the river Idle, and once noted for its Priory of Gilbertine monks, founded here, before the year 1194, by a family who took their surname from the place. This monastery, which is recorded to have been seriously damaged by fire in 1279, stood about a mile to the eastward of the village, on an elevated bank of the river Idle, which here sweeps round to the westward, its site being now partly occupied by a farmhouse, near to which some remains of what appears to have been the Priory church, and a portion of the conventual buildings, may still be seen, degraded into the common offices of a farm-yard. The parish church contains some very curious carved stone-work, representing St Martin dividing his cloak with the beggar, and other subjects, found beneath the pavement of the chancel about eighty years ago. On Blaco Hill and Dane's Hill, near the village, are some vestiges of ancient earthworks.

## EXCURSION XI.

### *SOUTHWELL.*

SOUTHWELL, so called in contradistinction to Northwell, or Norwell, a village lying a few miles off, derives its name from several wells or springs of ancient repute, and is a dull little market-town of considerable antiquity, seated in the more southern part of the county, at a distance of about fourteen miles to the north-east of Nottingham, upon a gentle eminence, embosomed in trees, in the centre of an amphitheatre of boldly swelling hills, whose bases are washed by the little river Greet, noted for its abundant supply of red trout. The town, which has now a population of 2400 persons, and a tolerable inn (the Saracen's Head), is said to have been once much larger than at the present time, as is evidenced by the not unfrequent discoveries of the foundations of streets and houses in a part of the immediate vicinity, where there are now no habitations. Southwell has long been partitioned into two separate divisions, or constablewicks, called the Burgage and the Prebendage; the former of which comprehends all that space between the market-place and the river Greet, whilst the latter is generally known as the High Town, and includes the collegiate church and the estate originally belonging to the chapter. The market is held here each Friday, but is now only of very trifling importance. That Southwell was a Roman station of some consideration is obvious, although antiquaries have disagreed as to its designation. On

the Burgage Hill are the evident vestiges of a broad fosse and ditch, doubtless forming part of a Roman encampment, and numerous Roman bricks and tiles, together with other antiquities, have been found in various parts of the town. Southwell appears likewise to have been a place of importance in Saxon times, and Camden believed that it was identical with *Tiovulfingacester*, mentioned by the venerable Bede as the place where Paulinus, the zealous apostle of the north of England, baptised so many converts to Christianity, in the waters of the neighbouring river Trent. Certain it is that since the time of Paulinus (who is admitted by all historians to have founded the noble Collegiate Church here about the year 628), Southwell has occupied a very prominent ecclesiastical position, and continued to be one of the chief seats of the Archbishops of York for many centuries down to a comparatively recent period. At the dissolution of religious houses in the reign of Henry VIII., the richly-endowed chantries belonging to this church were suppressed, the chantry priests expelled, and their broad lands confiscated, and the whole establishment shared in the general wreck of collegiate foundations. Yet, partly by the influence of Archbishop Cranmer, and partly through the intercessions of the gentry of the county, the fabric was spared in its entirety, and in 1542 Southwell Minster was declared by an Act of Parliament to be the mother-church of Nottinghamshire. Edward VI., however, dissolved the chapter, and granted the possessions of the church to the Duke of Northumberland; but Queen Mary restored all these lands and reconstituted the ancient chapter, which was likewise protected by Queen Elizabeth. About fifty years ago the chapter trans-

ferred all its estates and revenues to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for a fixed stipend, so long as any of the existing prebendaries survived, and the chapter finally expired in 1873, upon the death of the Rev. Thomas Henry Shepherd, last prebend of Southwell. The Collegiate Church itself, or the Minster as it is now commonly designated, is reputed to be the oldest church in England, with the exception of that of St Augustine at Canterbury, which was founded in 605, and, although it contains a mixture of all the styles of Gothic architecture, is decidedly one of the finest and most interesting early ecclesiastical edifices to be found in this country. The structure is cruciform in plan, having a central and two western towers, its length being 306 feet, whilst its breadth in the nave and choir is 59 feet, and in the transepts 121 feet. The nave and transepts, together with the three towers, are Norman, and are bold, well-executed, and simple in their details. The perfect preservation of the western front is most surprising, many of the Norman mouldings being as perfect as when they were first carved more than seven centuries ago. In the design of the western towers there is a marked avoidance of exact similarity; for although in general outline, and in the heights and number of the stages, the towers are precisely similar, yet in the windows, as also in the arcading of the upper stage, there is a considerable difference. The great western doorway is very characteristic of the style to which it belongs, but this otherwise perfect Norman front is sadly marred by an immense Perpendicular window, which has been inserted in the western gable. The north porch, with its circular-headed Norman doorway, affords a very fine example of the more enriched style of Norman architecture, and

merits especial attention. The transepts are of three stages, the two lower being lighted with circular-headed windows, with dog-tooth and billet mouldings, and the upper by round windows divided from the others by bold string courses. The gable end of the south transept is adorned with a curious pattern, sculptured in high relief, and closely resembling the more celebrated one at Kelso Abbey. The central tower has three stages, of which the middle is occupied by a fine interlacing arcade, partly blocked, and the parapet is enriched by eight massive round pinnacles with conical caps. Entering the church, the appearance of the nave from the western end is one of great simplicity and grandeur, and bears a striking resemblance to the nave of Durham Cathedral. The massive columns and plain round arches with billet mouldings, which partition the nave from the side aisles, are surmounted by a fine triforium, whilst above that is the clerestory, lighted by circular openings. The nave has a flat wooden ceiling, and the aisles are roofed with stone vaulting of Norman construction. The south aisle has, unfortunately, been disfigured by the insertion of several meagre-looking windows in the later Perpendicular style. The nave and transepts are separated from the choir by a very beautiful carved stone screen of Decorated character, in a good state of preservation. Passing through this screen and entering the choir, a most striking change in the style of the edifice is perceived, the whole of this part of the church being of later date, and exhibiting Early English architecture of the lightest and most elegant proportions. The plain circular-headed Norman lights are here replaced with the long lancet windows so characteristic of the First Pointed style, and instead of

huge round pillars there are here beautiful clustered shafts; and the whole is surmounted by a groined stone roof, which ranks deservedly amongst the best examples of the style. The stalls are of the same date as the screen which partitions the choir from the nave, and are particularly good. The chapter-house, which stands on the northern side of the choir, and is in the earlier Decorated style of architecture, is, perhaps, the most interesting, and certainly the most beautiful portion of the minster. It is octagonal in shape, each side being pierced with a good Decorated window, containing some curious fragments of old painted glass. The roof is vaulted, the groins springing from slender shafts, with exquisitely-carved caps, each shaft being continued down between the windows. The space beneath the windows is arcaded, the traceried gables being carried upon shafts, the carved caps of are which display the most remarkable diversity, and beautifully executed. The entrance-archway to the chapter-house is well worthy of notice, the elaborate carved work in the caps of the piers, round the arch, and down the jambs of the archway, exhibiting the highest perfection of art. The whole fabric suffered much in the civil wars of the seventeenth century, and can never entirely recover the damage it sustained at the hands of Cromwell's troopers, who converted it into a stable for their horses, demolished the old painted windows, broke down the monuments, and even ransacked the graves of the dead in their sacrilegious search for lead and other valuables. So late as 1793, some of the iron rings driven into the walls to fasten the horses to were still in existence. In 1711, the church was struck by lightning, which set fire to the south spire, melted the lead and bells in

the central tower, and destroyed the organ. In 1801, the wooden spires, which had long surmounted the western towers, being considered unsafe, were taken down, to the manifest improvement of the structure. The sepulchral monuments here are neither numerous nor of particular interest. The most ancient is a coffin-shaped stone inscribed with a cross, placed beneath an arched recess in the thickness of the wall of the north aisle, which has been conjectured to mark the place of interment of Aldred, twenty-fourth Archbishop of York, who died in 1069, having been a great benefactor to Southwell, but it is doubtful whether so early a date can be ascribed to it. Several other archbishops of York lie buried in various parts of the church, to whose memory stately tombs were erected, but none now remain, with the exception of an altar-tomb, bearing the recumbent effigy of Edwin Sandys, the sixty-third archbishop, who died in 1588, which originally stood in the choir, within the altar-rails, but which is now placed in the north transept. On the floor of the nave are several fragments of old sepulchral slabs, all more or less mutilated, and there are likewise numerous mural monuments. Built into the wall of the north transept may be found a very curious piece of Saxon sculpture of considerable interest, supposed, by Rastall and others, to be one of the earliest specimens of Saxon carving to be found in the kingdom. The eastern end of the choir is adorned with some fine old painted glass of rich colour and good design, said to have originally belonged to the chapel of the Bastille, which was purchased in Paris after the great revolution, and placed in its present position by the late John Gally Knight, Esq. The east window of the north aisle contains some fine modern stained glass, representing the Annunciation of the

Virgin, and the modern stained glass in the windows of the nave and transepts is likewise worthy of note. Here, too, are preserved the brass eagle and altar candlesticks originally belonging to the Priory of Newstead, which, having been thrown into the lake there by the monks to preserve them from destruction, were discovered some few years ago, and most appropriately placed in this church. The ancient archway, forming the western entrance to the church-yard, is also worthy of notice. On the southern side of the minster, immediately contiguous to the church-yard, stand the venerable and picturesque ruins of the Palace, once occupied by the Archbishops of York. The greater part of the fabric seems to have been built towards the close of the thirteenth century, the main features of the palace being early Decorated in character; but there are many subsequent additions, and some considerable part seems to have been added by the celebrated Cardinal Kemp, who was Archbishop of York in the time of Henry VI., and whose armorial bearings may still be seen carved at the eastern end of what is now called "the Court Chamber." Some curious closets in the walls and buttresses should be inspected, and there are likewise several unusually good fireplaces and chimneys in the later Perpendicular style. It does not appear that any Archbishop of York permanently resided here since the time of Queen Elizabeth, but the palace must have been kept in repair for some years later, as it was occupied by Charles I., in 1642, and again in 1645. However, in 1646, the Parliamentary Commissioners being here, they sanctioned the demolition of this noble pile, which was speedily reduced to the ruinous condition in which it now remains. Some years ago a portion of the palace was repaired and converted into a mansion, now occupied



by Miss Barrow, and the remainder of the space between the ruined walls has been laid out as a garden. The Residence, a spacious brick mansion standing on the eastern side of the church-yard, was formerly occupied by the various prebendaries in regular rotation, but is now appropriated to the rector and the two minor canons. Besides the minster, Southwell possesses a modern church, built in 1844, and several meeting-houses. The Saracen's Head inn, which stands in what is dignified with the name of the market-place, is a quaint old edifice, with an overhanging upper story; and it was here that the unfortunate King Charles (whose arms now adorn the front of the building), delivered himself up to the Parliamentary Commissioners, in 1646, and was conducted by them to the Scottish army, then lying at Kelham, a few miles distant. Beyond the Burgage Green, on the eastern side of the town, is the county gaol, a large establishment, originally erected in 1656 as a prison for offenders within such manors in Nottinghamshire as belonged to the Archbishops of York, but considerably enlarged in 1787, and entirely rebuilt and appropriated to the use of the county at large in 1808. During his boyhood, Lord Byron spent several years at Southwell, living with his mother in a house still standing on the Burgage Green; and he appears from contemporary letters to have entertained a hearty dislike to the dull little town. Lovers of Byron relics will find his name, cut by the youthful peer himself, in the lead upon the upper platform of the great central tower of the minster. A branch of the Midland Railway passes near Southwell, and has a station not far from the town, affording direct communication with Nottingham, Newark, Lincoln, Mansfield, and other places.

## EXCURSION XII.

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*FROM SOUTHWELL, THROUGH HALAM AND FARNSFIELD, TO BILSTHORPE AND EAKRING, AND FROM THENCE BY WINKBOURN, HOCKERTON, AND AVERHAM, TO NEWARK-UPON-TRENT.*

NORWOOD PARK, which is about a mile to the north-west of Southwell, originally belonged to the Archbishops of York, but is now the property of Sir Richard Sutton, Bart., one of whose ancestors obtained the estate about a century ago, in exchange for certain other lands in this neighbourhood. During the Commonwealth, when all the possessions of the see of York were sequestrated, the authorities sold Norwood Park to Edward Cludd, Esq., an active magistrate and, as it would appear, a worthy, sensible man, for it is said that to his influence Southwell minster owed its escape from total destruction at the hands of the Parliamentary soldiers. He built for himself a good house here, which he was permitted to retain, after the Restoration, on a lease under the Archbishops of York. This house was taken down some years ago, and a new house was erected by John Sutton, Esq., in a superior situation upon a gentle slope, amidst some fine old timber. An old oak tree in the park, still called "Cludd's oak," is pointed out as the place where Mr Cludd, in the exercise of his functions as a Justice of the Peace, according to the custom of the Commonwealth, frequently performed the civil marriage ceremony.

HALAM is pleasantly situated at the foot of a lofty range of hills, one mile and a half to the west-north-west of Southwell. The windows of the church exhibit some curious stained glass, representing Adam and Eve, together with St Christopher, St Anthony, and other figures. Here was an old mansion, formerly occupied by a younger branch of the family of Leek, but only some portions of the garden walls now remain. Passing through Edingley, an unpretending little village, with a venerable church, dedicated to St Giles, the tourist reaches Farnsfield, at a distance of about four miles from Southwell.

FARNSFIELD, a large and well-built village, occupies an eminence upon the borders of the old forest, having a station upon the Mansfield and Southwell line of railway. The church, which was entirely rebuilt in 1860, is a handsome structure, with a lofty spire and a peal of five bells. About a mile from Farnsfield is HEXGRAVE PARK, once the property of the Archbishops of York, where very evident vestiges of an ancient encampment, occupying an elevated situation upon the summit of a hill, may still be found; the ditch and vallum being very distinct in some places, although the intermediate lines have been completely obliterated by the plough. On Combe's Hill, about three miles south-west from this, are the remains of another encampment, already referred to, of which a drawing may be found in the 8th volume of the "Archæologia." Rastall was of opinion that both these camps were constructed before the time of the Romans, which is not altogether improbable, but that they were also of Roman occupancy is proved by the discoveries of Roman coins and other antiquities. In 1849, a large pig, or ingot of Roman lead, was found in Hexgrave Park, and is

now in the possession of Richard Milward, Esq., of Thurgarton Priory.

BILSTHORPE, which lies upwards of a mile and a half further to the north-north-west, midway between the towns of Southwell and Ollerton, is a small roadside village, once completely surrounded by wild forest-land, but now situated in the midst of a fertile and well-cultivated district. The church is a venerable structure, dedicated to St Margaret, exhibiting some traces of Early English work, and containing a mural monument to Dr William Chappell, Provost of Dublin University, and Bishop of Cork and Ross, in Ireland, who died at Derby, and was here interred in 1649. Near the church stands such part as remains of the old hall, said to have been one of the numerous hiding-places of Charles II.—an assertion which the secluded position of the village renders not altogether improbable.

At EAKRING, a large, straggling village, lying nearly two miles north-east of Bilsthorpe, is an ancient church, in the chancel of which lie the remains of the Rev. William Mompesson, rector of this parish, and sometime rector of Eyam, in Derbyshire, the memorial of whose humanity and devotedness to the wants of his afflicted parishioners during the terrible plague at Eyam, in 1665, can never perish. In the church-yard may be found a plain head-stone to one Edward Cartwright, who died in 1773, having been for more than half a century gamekeeper to the Duke of Kingston, which is thus inscribed :—

My gun discharged, my ball is gone,  
My powder's spent, my work is done ;  
Those panting deer I have left behind  
May now have time to gain their wind ;  
Who I have oft-times chased them o'er  
The verdant plains, but now no more."

MAPLEBECK, a small village, situated in a pleasant vale, about two miles and a quarter to the south-east of Eakring, presents but little of interest. A remarkably fine old yew stands in the church-yard, and near to the church there was formerly a large mansion, built by some of the Markham family, but demolished as far back as 1666.

Upwards of a mile and a half southward, upon a slight elevation, is WINKBOURN, anciently the property of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem. The Hall, a handsome brick mansion, dating from the last century, is situated on the eastern side of the village, in an undulating and well-wooded park, overlooking the fertile valley of the little river Winkle, from which this place derives its name, and is the seat of Edward Valentine Pegge-Burnell, Esq., J.P., whose ancestor acquired this manor in the reign of Edward VI. In the church, which stands near the hall, is a sixteenth-century monument to William Burnell, Esq., adorned with his effigy in armour, and a fine mural monument to D'Arcy Burnell, Esq., who died in 1772, together with several other memorials of the same family.

KIRKLINGTON, a small, rural village, lies nearly two miles west-south-west of Winkbourn, having a station on the Mansfield and Southwell branch of the Midland Railway. The Hall, which is the seat of Mrs Boddam Whetham, is situated a little to the north of the village, on the western declivity of a gentle eminence, embosomed in woods and thriving plantations, and surrounded by extensive and tastefully-planned grounds. The church is an ancient structure, dedicated to St Swithin, containing several sepulchral monuments, amongst which is an old incised slab bearing a cross with a clasped book and a chalice, doubtless commemor-

ating an ecclesiastic ; and a small mural monument to Dame Catherine More, 1702. At Belle-Eau Park, about a mile and a half to the north-west of the village, is an old farm-house, formerly surrounded by a double moat, the remains of which are still visible.

HOCKERTON, which lies about two miles east-south-east of Kirklington, has a dilapidated old church, dedicated to St Nicholas, beyond which Upton lies, about a mile and a half to the south-west.

UPTON, a well-built roadside village, occupies an elevated situation, about two miles and a half to the east of Southwell. The church, which is dedicated to St Peter, has a handsome pinnaced tower, worthy of notice, and formerly contained a brass of the fifteenth century, and several monuments to the Oglethorpe family, but the church has recently been restored, and, as is unfortunately too often the case, these memorials have disappeared. The Hall, a large, square, modern mansion, surmounted by a large dome, which forms a conspicuous object for some miles round, was erected on the site of an old manor-house once belonging to the Oglethorpes, by the late Thomas Wright, Esq., and is now the residence and property of Philip Richard Faulkner, Esq.

AVERHAM is a pleasant little village, the houses of which are scattered up and down near the banks of the Trent, upwards of two miles eastward of Upton. The church, which is dedicated to St Michael, stands picturesquely shrouded amidst a group of fine old trees, upon a rising ground near the river. The fabric itself is one of unusual beauty, and has recently been very carefully and effectively restored through the instrumentality of the present rector, the Rev. Joseph Walker. The interior of this church presents numer-

ous interesting features, which are well worthy of inspection. On the north side of the nave, beneath an arched recess adorned with the arms of the Sutton family, is a very old coffin-shaped slab, bearing an elegant cross, carved in high relief, composed of four annulets conjoined, and the remains of an inscription in old Norman-French. Opposite to this is another canopied recess, beneath which lies the figure of a man in a long robe, having a lion at his feet, and holding a heart between his hands. In the chancel, on the north side of the altar, is a fine altar-tomb, adorned with the recumbent effigies of a knight and his lady, representing Sir William Sutton, who died in 1611, and Dame Susanna, his wife, by whom the tomb was erected; and upon the front are these lines—

“ Sir William Sutton's corps here toombed sleepes,  
Whose happy soul in better mansion keepes.  
Thrice nine years liv'd he with his lady faire,  
A lovely, noble, and like virtuous payre.  
Their generous ofspring (parent's joy of heart),  
Eight of each sex : of each an equal part,  
Usher'd to Heaven their father, and the other  
Remain'd behind him to attend their mother.”

On the opposite side of the chancel is a large mural monument, richly ornamented with coats of arms and other ornamentation, and inscribed to Robert, first Lord Lexington, a worthy nobleman, who, as Thoroton says, “very much increased his patrimony, ever kept a plentiful sober house, and was much out of purse for King Charles the First,” by whom he was created a peer in 1645, and who died in 1668. The chancel likewise contains several more modern memorials of the Suttons. On the outside of the porch is some very curious carved stone-work, dating from about the beginning of the sixteenth century, exhibiting

the figure of an angel, the initials of Sir Thomas Sutton, two wolves' heads—the crest of the Sutton family, two tuns or barrels, and other devices, accompanied by two large shields of arms. At Averham Park, which occupies a considerable elevation, nearly two miles north of the village, there formerly stood a stately mansion, in which the Suttons resided for many generations, but no part of it now remains beyond some portion of the old park walls. Leaving Averham, and passing through Kelham (which will be more particularly noticed elsewhere), the tourist crosses the Trent by a fine bridge, erected at the expense of the county in 1856, and after proceeding for about two miles further along a pleasant road, commanding a fine view of the castle and town, reaches Newark-upon-Trent.



## EXCURSION XIII.

### *NEWARK-UPON-TRENT.*

NEWARK-UPON-TRENT, which lies about twenty-one miles north-east by east of Nottingham, eight miles east of Southwell, and sixteen miles south-west of Lincoln, is an ancient but well-built and somewhat picturesque market-town and borough, situated in the midst of a productive agricultural district on the banks of the river Devon, which, after receiving the waters of the Smite and the Car Dyke, communicates with a short arm or branch of the Trent, and flowing beneath the majestic ruins of the old castle, pursues a north-easterly course to that river, which it joins at Crankleys, near Winthorpe, so that the two streams together form, on the north-western side of the town, a large elliptical island of low but fertile pasture-land, frequently inundated during the winter months. The town itself, which has a population of 12,195 persons, has three good hotels (the Clinton Arms, and the Saracen's Head, in the Market-place, and the Ram, in Castle Gate, not far from the Midland Railway station), and consists mainly of one long street—remarkable as being a part of the Roman Fosse road—an unusually spacious and handsome market-place, and numerous narrow minor streets, the more ancient of which are still partly composed of quaint old timbered houses, with overhanging upper stories and steeply pitched roofs. The main line of the Great Northern Railway, and the Nottingham and the Lincoln branch of the

Midland Railway, both pass near to the town, and have stations here. Various antiquarian conjectures have been hazarded respecting the origin of Newark, the most plausible of which is, that it occupies the site of the Roman station *Eltavona*, which was eventually enlarged and partly rebuilt by the Saxons from the ruins of several Roman cities in the neighbourhood. After this reconstruction, it is supposed by some writers to have been the Saxon *Sidnacester*, which, in the early days of Christianity, was a bishopric, having had a succession of nine bishops after the year 678; but it must be added, that other authorities, with greater probability, have placed that city at Stowe, in Lincolnshire. It is, however, certain that Newark, during the Saxon heptarchy, was an important town, defended by a strong wall and fortress, and constructed mainly of Roman materials. After being destroyed by the Danes, it was rebuilt; and hence the designation of *New Werke* was appropriately applied to it in the reign of Edward the Confessor. After the Norman invasion, the manor of Newark belonged to the kind-hearted Godiva, of Coventry celebrity, the wife of Leofric, Earl of Mercia, and, according to Kingsley, the mother of Hereward Wake, "the last of the English," and by her it was given to the monastery of Stowe, near Lincoln. But the manor was subsequently claimed by the Bishops of Lincoln, one of whom, Alexander de Blois, who is described as a man "of a very liberal and gentile temper," built the present castle in the reign of Stephen, and by so doing incurred the displeasure of his sovereign, by whom he was imprisoned and kept in close confinement until he consented to surrender his fortress to the Crown. In the reign of King John, and in the baronial wars, the castle several

times changed hands, and within its walls that monarch died, after his escape from drowning in the Wash, in 1216. Henry III. restored the castle and its possessions to the Bishops of Lincoln, but it reverted to the Crown, to which it still belongs, in the reign of Henry VIII. In 1530, Cardinal Wolsey lodged in Newark castle, in great splendour; and in 1602, James I. stayed here on his journey from Scotland, after his accession to the English throne. But all other incidents connected with the past history of this place fade into insignificance when compared with the story of the gallantry and devoted loyalty displayed by the town during the unhappy civil wars of the seventeenth century. The courageous inhabitants sustained no less than three violent sieges, during which they not only freely sacrificed their lives and property in the cause of their sovereign, but suffered incalculable hardships from famine and disease. In 1644, Newark was bravely defended by Sir Richard Byron, until Prince Rupert relieved the town, after defeating the Parliamentarians on Beacon Hill, and capturing their cannon, ammunition, and no less than 4000 prisoners. Much valour was displayed during the third siege, in 1645, and much blood was spilt on both sides, but the town was at length given up to the Scotch army by the King's orders, although the gallant townsmen, headed by their mayor, upon their knees and with tears in their eyes, besought Lord Belasy's, the governor, not to obey an order which had only been issued under compulsion. After the surrender of the town, the works and circumvallations were demolished by the neighbouring country people, with the exception of one sconce, which yet remains almost entire, and although comparatively little noticed is an object which should by no means be left unvisited

by the passing tourist.\* The ancient walls and gates, which formerly enclosed the town, have entirely disappeared, and were probably destroyed after the civil wars, though two of the gateways, called the North gate and the East gate, both of which exhibited very evident traces of Roman work, were standing at the latter part of the last century, the former being removed in 1762, and the latter in 1784. The fine old Castle, which since the time of its erection in the reign of Stephen, appears to have undergone very considerable alterations and additions, was reduced by the Parliamentarians to a mere shell, in which condition it yet remains, a venerable and picturesque ruin, equally interesting to the ordinary visitor for its many and varied associations with bygone days, as to the archæologist for the various remarkable architectural features which it presents. The only parts remaining of this once stately castle are the whole of the western front, and some portion of the northern. The western front, overlooking the river, is in the most perfect state of preservation, having a massive tower at either angle, and another in the centre of the elevation. The greater part of the walls are Norman, but many of the windows are Perpendicular insertions, and some are even of later date. A particularly fine oriel window, with three traceried lights, on the western front, should be especially noticed. The gatehouse, on the northern side, is mainly in the later Norman style, but exhibits much subsequent work. Within the exterior walls little remains. Some vestiges of the great hall are to be found, and beneath

\* The tourist who desires to know more of the past history of this ancient borough is referred to the "History and Antiquities of the Town of Newark," by William Dickinson, Esq., and to the "History of the Town of Newark-upon-Trent," by Richard Phillips Shilton.

it is a very curious arched vault or crypt, supported by a row of plain circular piers, and lighted by several deeply splayed embrasures on the western side. One end of this vault, which is supposed to have been used as a chapel, opens on to a subterraneous passage, communicating on the one side with a small postern-gate towards the river, and on the other with another passage believed at one time to have led to a vault beneath the parish church. A small apartment still remaining in the tower, at the south-western angle of the building, is shown as the one in which King John expired; and in the lower part of this same tower is a narrow-vaulted passage leading to a dark and dismal dungeon, into which captives are said to have been lowered by ropes. A part of the space within the ruins has been planted with trees and shrubs, and laid out as a pleasure-ground for the townspeople, but the remainder has, unfortunately, been appropriated by the Corporation as a beast-market, whilst the front of the castle has been degraded to a coal-wharf. Newark had long been noted for its corrupt practices at elections; not only for the representatives to serve in Parliament, but for other municipal and parochial officers, so that the Reform Parliament, desirous to strengthen themselves and to lessen the Tory influence of the Duke of Newcastle, who was lessee of the Crown lands in Newark, determined on the sale of all the Crown estates in this place, which was, accordingly, carried into effect, so that no part of Newark now belongs to the Crown, with the exception of the ruins of the castle. Newark was incorporated by Edward VI. in 1559, and was governed by an alderman and twelve assistants, until 1625, when Charles I. granted a new charter to the town, instituting a Corporation, composed of a mayor

and twelve aldermen, with "a good and discreet man, learned in the laws of England," to be recorder. Charles II. remodelled the Corporation in 1677, and presented one of the two gold maces which are borne on state occasions before the mayor. Numerous alterations were again effected by the Municipal Reform Act, in 1835, when the number of aldermen was reduced to six. Anciently, there were also six incorporated societies of tradesmen, called guilds, dedicated to different saints, one of whom was "Holy Richard of Newark," and each society was presided over by a master, usually called the alderman of the guild. Amongst the religious foundations in Newark was a house of Austin Friars, standing at the lower end of the street called Appleton Gate, where some part of the old buildings may still be found incorporated with a large modern mansion, the chapel now forming a stable. Near the Friary was a house of Observant Friars, called the Chantry, the site of which is now occupied by a mansion, the residence and property of Mrs Sikes, which dates from the earlier part of the last century, and contains a fine collection of old portraits, together with many rare and valuable cabinets, numerous antiquities, and articles of *virtu*. There was also an hospital in the lower part of the town, dedicated to St Leonard, and founded about the time of Henry I. by Alexander de Blois, Bishop of Lincoln, which still exists as an almshouse for three poor men, although the original buildings were burned down in the civil wars. The Bede Houses, founded and endowed, in 1556, by William Phyllypot, a wealthy merchant of Newark, "for the common good of the town," and subsequently augmented by various charitable bequests, furnish accommodation for twenty-four poor people,

and have recently been entirely rebuilt with the exception of the little chapel, still regularly used for the performance of divine service. The grammar school, which is free for the education of all boys of Newark and its neighbourhood, having fifty pupils on the foundation, was founded in 1529, by Dr Thomas Magnus, archdeacon of York, who likewise bequeathed a very considerable estate to the town in 1536, for various charitable and public uses. The Church of St Mary Magdalene is one of the largest and most beautiful parish churches in the kingdom, and the grand ornament not of Newark alone, but of the whole county of Nottingham. It consists of a nave with side aisles and baptistry, north and south transepts, chancel with side aisles and two interior chantry chapels, and a magnificent tower and spire—the finest feature of the building. The oldest portions of this noble structure are the four piers forming the intersection of the cross church, and the imperfect crypt beneath the chancel, which date from about the close of the twelfth century. Next in point of antiquity is the lower portion of the tower, which exhibits the Early English architecture of the following century ; and had it not been somewhat injured by the insertion of a large Perpendicular window, would present an example of early pointed work seldom surpassed in beauty of conception. The tower was subsequently heightened by the addition of a lofty Decorated spire of exceeding grandeur, adorned with statues of the twelve apostles, which still remain. The south aisle of the nave appears to have been built in the Decorated style, about 1315 ; and the arcade dividing it from the nave was probably completed between the year 1382, the date of the

marriage of Richard II. with his first Queen, Anne of Bohemia, and the year 1394, in which she died, as the arms of England together with those of Bohemia appear upon the caps of the piers; whilst the nave itself and the north aisle do not appear to have been finished for nearly a century later. The present chancel, with its side aisles, was built in the latter part of the fifteenth century, and the transepts were added a few years later, so that "the church," as Sir Gilbert Scott remarks, "was finished, much as we now see it, about the year 1500; and while we cannot but regret that this did not take place, as contemplated, during the palmy days of the Middle Pointed period, and thus have been graced with the flowing tracery and lofty roofs of that noble style, we cannot but accord to the builders of the fifteenth century the honour of having brought to completion a church which has a few competitors among the parochial churches of England." The interior of the church is enriched by a magnificent rood-screen of richly-carved oak, placed at the intersection of the nave and chancel in 1508, and continued on either side to within a short distance of the high altar in 1521. On each side of the chancel are the remains of a small chantry chapel, enclosed by a stone screen, richly ornamented with shields of arms and other carving; the one on the north side being founded by Thomas Mering, Esq., in 1500, and the other founded five years later by Robert Markham, Esq. Beyond the altar is a Lady chapel, in which may be found some plain stone stalls of late Perpendicular character. The entire fabric was very carefully restored in 1855, under the superintendence of Sir Gilbert Scott, when the modern innovations of high square pews and cumbersome galleries were



swept away. Since then the great east window has been filled with unusually fine modern stained glass, the cost of which was defrayed by public subscription as a memorial of the late lamented Prince Consort, and stained glass has also been introduced into five other windows, besides which various other improvements have been effected. Some curious fragments of old stained glass, collected from all parts of the church and now placed in the east window of the south aisle, should be noticed. A fine Flemish brass, remarkable as being the largest in the kingdom, exhibiting the effigy of Alan Fleming, the reputed founder of some portion of the church, who died in 1373, may be found affixed to the wall of the south transept. There is also a small brass of a civilian of the sixteenth century, in the north transept; and another brass representing Alderman William Phyllypot, who died in 1557, which was formerly in the south transept, but now affixed to a tablet in the north aisle. A large altar-tomb in the Lady chapel, adorned with armorial bearings, records the decease, in 1523, of Robert Browne, Esq., Alderman of the Guild of the Holy Trinity and Constable of Newark Castle. The piers on either side of the chancel-arch bear three large mural monuments, exhibiting busts of Robert Ramsay, Esq., servant to His Majesty, 1639; Alderman John Johnson, 1659, and Alderman Thomas Atkinson, 1661. There are likewise many other memorials of more or less interest, but want of space forbids mention of any beyond the mural monument towards the east end of the south aisle, remembering Alderman Hercules Clay, who, during the second siege of Newark in 1644, dreamed three times successively that his house was in flames, which so much impressed him that he removed his

goods and quitted the house with all his family, very soon after which, a bombshell from the enemy's battery on Beacon Hill fell upon his habitation, and, passing through every floor, set it on fire. In gratitude for his providential escape, he bequeathed certain lands to the corporation of Newark, the proceeds of which are devoted to the purchase of penny loaves, distributed amongst all the poorest inhabitants of the town every year on the 11th of March (the anniversary of the event), when a sermon is preached by the vicar in commemoration of the same, and the church bells are rung. In the south aisle hangs one of the colours of the First Nottinghamshire Regiment of Local Militia; and above the principal entrance, at the western end of the nave, is placed a magnificent painting of "the raising of Lazarus," by *Hilton*, whose father was a native of Newark, and who presented the picture to the church. In a small chamber over the south porch is a valuable theological library, bequeathed to the church in 1690 by Dr Thomas White, Bishop of Peterborough, who likewise left a sum of money to be annually distributed by the vicar amongst certain poor people, each of whom are compelled, by the terms of his will, to repeat in the church-porch, before receiving their alms, the Lord's Prayer, Apostle's Creed, and Ten Commandments, without missing one word! Besides the old parish church, there are likewise two other churches in Newark; Christ Church, built in 1836, in the very poorest and meanest style of ecclesiastical architecture, and St Leonard's, a large, plain structure, but of far superior design, recently erected in the lower part of the town. The Roman Catholics have a large, though poorly-built, chapel, completed in 1837, and there are various meeting-houses for the different societies of

dissenters. The market-place, in which a well-frequented market is held each Wednesday, is a spacious area, lined with good buildings, having on the western side the Town Hall, a large structure, with a handsome stone front, ornamented with a well-proportioned pediment, supported by six massive Doric columns, built by the Corporation in 1773. The large brick house, at the south-eastern corner of the market-place, stands upon the site of the house in which Alderman Hercules Clay resided; and the quaint old edifice opposite, at the upper end of Stodman Street, was occupied by the governor during the sieges of Newark. In the old brick building, adorned with the arms of the Dukes of Newcastle, which stands in front of the church on the northern side of the market-place, the manor-courts were once held, and here the justices of the peace used formerly to assemble, by permission of the lord of the manor, to transact the business of the county. Newark was at one time remarkable for the number of its inns, owing to the great traffic through it of travellers and goods along the Great North road, now nearly removed by the railway system. Among these, the Saracen's Head and the White Hart, both of which are situated in the market-place, are of considerable antiquity, the former existing under the same sign in the time of Edward III., and the latter in that of Henry IV. The former inn possesses additional interest from the writings of Sir Walter Scott, whose "Jeanie Deans" rested the night here on her way from Mid-Lothian to London. There was formerly an old cross in the centre of the market-place, erected by Alderman Henry Webster, in 1619, but this has long disappeared; there is, however, an ancient cross, of somewhat elegant sign, called the "Beaumont Cross," still standing

at the junction of Carter Gate and Lombard Street, which, according to an inscription upon it, was erected in the reign of Edward IV., repaired by Charles Mellish, Esq., in 1778, and again repaired and beautified by the Corporation in 1801. There are two manufactories of coarse linen at Hawton mills, and smock-frocks are still made here, but the malting establishments and corn mills are the principal sources of the opulence of the town. At Beacon Hill, near Newark, are some excellent beds of gypsum, and there are several extensive plaster works, at one of which was prepared the plaster used for the Great Exhibition of 1862. The County Militia stores are likewise here, and for upwards of eighty years, Newark has been the head quarters of the Royal Sherwood Foresters, or Nottinghamshire Regiment of Militia—a distinguished corps, reorganised under the title of the “Forty-second Regiment of Militia,” in 1775, and first embodied for permanent service, under the command of Lord George Sutton, in 1778. In 1808, this regiment volunteered for service in the Peninsula, under the Duke of Wellington, for which the special thanks of the Government were accorded, and in 1813 the title of “Royal Sherwood Foresters” was conferred by the Prince Regent, in commemoration of the regiment having been selected to mount guard over the royal family at St James’s Palace. Newark gives the title of Viscount to the Pierrepont family; and was the birth-place of John Arden, a learned writer on medicine and surgery in the fifteenth century; Dr Thomas White, Bishop of Peterborough; and Dr William Warburton, Bishop of Gloucester, who was born here in 1698, and was partly educated at the grammar school, and practised for a short time as a conveyancer in the town.

## EXCURSION XIV.

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*FROM NEWARK-UPON-TRENT, BY KELHAM AND CAUNTON, TO OSSINGTON AND LAXTON, RETURNING TO NEWARK BY SUTTON AND CARLTON, ALONG THE VALLEY OF THE TRENT.*

AT KELHAM, a neat little village embowered in foliage, and very pleasantly situated on the northern bank of the Trent, two miles north-west of Newark, is a noble mansion, the seat of John Henry Manners Sutton, Esq., J.P., standing in a small but well-timbered park stretching along the banks of the river. This mansion, which was rebuilt a few years ago, from the designs of the eminent architect, Sir Gilbert Scott, on the site of a plain old house completely destroyed by fire in 1857, contains numerous fine apartments, magnificently furnished and decorated, and here, too, is a good collection of paintings and other works of art. The entrance-gateway, with its piers of polished granite, is particularly handsome and worthy of especial notice. The church, an ancient and time-worn structure, dedicated to St Winifred, has recently been carefully restored, and contains some remains of painted glass, and in a mortuary chapel on the south side of the chancel may be found a ponderous tomb, adorned with the effigies of Robert, last Lord Lexington, and the Lady Margaret, his wife, classically treated, and somewhat peculiarly placed *dos-a-dos*. In the church-yard is a monument of red granite, of chaste and beautiful design, to John Thomas, second Lord Man-

ners, who died in 1864. Crossing a lofty eminence, from which a charming view of Lincoln Minster and the valley of the Trent may be obtained, and proceeding northward for upwards of four miles, the tourist reaches

CAUNTON, a considerable village, built on the banks of a little stream, and having a venerable church, dedicated to St Andrew. Caunton Manor, a spacious modern residence, standing at a short distance from the church, is the seat and property of the Rev. Samuel Reynolds Hole. About a mile beyond the village is Beesthorpe, a small hamlet, where there is an old hall, once the seat of the Bristow family, and still in their possession. Ossington is nearly four miles northward.

Near to the small rural village of OSSINGTON is the Hall, a handsome modern mansion, embosomed in stately trees, and surrounded by a picturesquely undulating park, in which there is an extensive sheet of water, having a noted decoy for wild-ducks, which here abound in unusually large numbers. This mansion, now the seat of the Viscountess Ossington, occupies the site of an old residence, which was partly destroyed in the civil wars of the seventeenth century, and was for many generations the seat of a branch of the Cartwright family, the four coheirresses of which sold the estate to the late William Denison, an opulent woollen merchant of Leeds, who died in 1782, after realising an immense fortune, a considerable portion of which he is reputed to have gained by one ship's cargo, which opportunely arrived at Lisbon immediately after the greater part of that city had been destroyed by the great earthquake in 1755. His monument in the parish church (which is closely adjacent to the Hall), consists of a full-length marble

figure pointing with one hand to a scroll, on which is the familiar hymn, commencing, "Father of all! in every age, in every clime, adored;" and upon the pedestal supporting the figure is a representation of his ship unloading in the haven of Lisbon. The church likewise contains some other memorials to the Denison family, and an altar-tomb to Reynold Peckham, Esq., who died in 1580, and also a very fine monument, adorned with numerous effigies and armorial bearings, to William Cartwright, Esq., who died in 1602.

LAXTON (or Lexington, as it was formerly called), is a considerable village, lying in a slight declivity nearly two miles to the northward of Ossington. The manor of Laxton was successively inherited by the ancient baronial families of De Cauz, De Birken, Everingham, and Roos; and relative to the last mentioned family, Thoroton very briefly records a melancholy story of how they became so much impoverished by the reckless extravagance of Gilbert Roos, the last male representative of this branch, that his mother was actually compelled to go out into the fields and glean corn amongst the poorest inhabitants of the village, to save herself from starvation. Here, too, resided a distinguished family, whose surname was derived from the place, and of this family was an illustrious triumvirate of brothers, who flourished in the thirteenth century; John de Lexington, the eldest, being Keeper of the Great Seal; Henry, being Bishop of Lincoln; and Robert, a canon of Southwell, and eventually one of the King's Justices of Assize, and Prior of Lenton. Through a coheirress of the De Lexington family the Suttons, of Averham, were descended, and, in 1645, Robert Sutton was raised to the peerage, "in consideration of his steady loyalty to his sovereign," by the title of

Lord Lexington. At this place also was born Dr William Chappell, who became Bishop of Cork and Ross, in Ireland, in 1638, and who is remembered as a prelate equally eminent in learning, piety, and charity. The old church was a fine structure, once containing many stately monuments, but being in a hopeless state of dilapidation, it was entirely rebuilt in 1861, upon a somewhat smaller scale, at the expense of the Right Hon. the Earl Manvers. Several of the old monuments have been preserved, and in the chancel may be found several mutilated cross-legged effigies of considerable antiquity, one of which exhibits the arms of the Lexingtons upon the shield. At the east end of the nave is a quaint old pew, upon which is carved a shield, charged with five weeping eyes, and the inscription: "Robert Trafford, Vic. de Laxton, hoc fieri fecit, Anno Domini 1532." A little to the north of the church is a curious conical mound, surrounded by a deep moat, which may possibly be the site of some old fortified mansion, and not far from it is a somewhat similar eminence, called Gaddick Hill, which is likewise encompassed by a trench.

FLEDBOROUGH, a small scattered village, situated upon the banks of the river Trent, about twelve miles north of Newark, was noted in the earlier part of the last century as the "Gretna Green" of Nottinghamshire, from the then rector, who, like the notorious blacksmith of the Scottish border, united in the bonds of wedlock, without license or inquiry, all who applied to him for that happy purpose. The fine old church is dedicated to St Gregory, and contains some vestiges of old stained glass, said to have once been of considerable interest, and in the chancel is an ancient monument, believed to commemorate some member of the Basset family, once resident in this place.



MARNHAM, another small village, composed of the two hamlets of Church Marnham and Ferry Marnham, lies on the western bank of the Trent, about two miles southward of Fledborough, and has an old church, dedicated to St Wilfrid, the advowson of which was once in the hands of the Knights Hospitallers of the neighbouring Preceptory of Eagle Hall, in Lincolnshire. About two miles further southward is

SUTTON-UPON-TRENT, a large and populous village, only remarkable as giving name to the distinguished family of Sutton, who long flourished in this and other counties, and were ennobled by the titles of Earl of Warwick, Earl of Leicester, Baron Dudley, and Baron Lexington. The church is a small and venerable structure, with a square embattled tower, formerly surmounted by a slender spire, which was taken down about forty years ago. In it may be found some curiously carved stone screen-work, ornamented with the arms of the Mering family and with other devices, supposed to have been brought here from the neighbouring hamlet of Mering, where there is said to have once existed a small chantry-chapel, of which this screen-work formed a part.

HIGH and LOW MERING, locally called "The Mering," are small scattered hamlets lying on the opposite side of the river Trent, which hence, southward to Winthorpe, appears to have been at some remote period upwards of a mile wide, forming a meer or lake, from which "The Mering" derived its appellation.

CARLTON-UPON-TRENT, which lies near to the river, upwards of a mile south of Sutton-upon-Trent, has a well-built modern church, erected in 1851, upon the site of a small ancient structure. Adjoining the village is Carlton House, a large mansion, erected in the

last century, and for many years the seat of Sir William Earle Welby, Bart., but now the residence and property of John Vere, Esq., J.P. Here is a station on the Great Northern line of railway.

CROMWELL, once the seat of the Cromwell family (one of whom was the celebrated Ralph, Lord Cromwell, who became Lord Treasurer of England, and who lived in great splendour at Tattershall Castle, in Lincolnshire, in the reign of Henry VI.), is a small rural village, situated at some little distance from the banks of the Trent, upwards of a mile and a half south of Carlton-upon-Trent. The small ancient church of St Giles has recently been thoroughly restored, and indeed partly rebuilt. In it may be found some vestiges of painted glass, but no sepulchral monuments.

NORWELL is a large, pleasant, and well-built village, situated about one mile and a half to the west of Cromwell, at a distance of about seven miles to the north-north-west of Newark. Here were formerly three prebends of the collegiate church of Southwell, distinguished by the names of Norwell Overhall, Norwell Palace Hall, and Norwell Tertia, the first of which was the chief and richest prebend belonging to that church; and the three prebendaries were for some centuries lords and principal owners of this place, but all three prebends have now lapsed to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Anciently there were no less than six halls in this parish, all moated round, but such of these as remain have long been converted into farm-houses. Palace Hall was for many years the residence of the Sturtivant family, and at Overhall the family of Lee resided for several generations. The fine old parish church of St Lawrence is an unusually interesting structure, some parts of which date from

the twelfth century, whilst the graduated styles of architecture, from the Norman down to the later Perpendicular, are plainly exemplified in different portions of the fabric. Mr Christian, the well-known architect, speaks of Norwell church as "a structure of considerable archæological interest," and adds that it "possesses several features architecturally beautiful." The chancel was partially restored in 1857, and the restoration of the body of the church, formerly in a state of miserable delapidation, has just been completed. In the south aisle is an old sepulchral effigy worthy of notice, and in the chancel may be found some memorials of the Lees, of Overhall, and other monuments of interest.

NORTH MUSKHAM, a long, straggling, road side village, lies in the midst of a flat uninteresting country, upwards of two miles south-south-east of Norwell, on the banks of the river Trent. Here was formerly a handsome mansion, known as Muskham House, erected at great expense, towards the close of the last century, by the Pocklington family, but taken down some few years ago. Muskham Grange, a commodious residence, dates from about the beginning of the last century, and formerly the seat of William Dickenson Rastall, Esq., who distinguished himself as a topographer of some of the most interesting parts of his native county. The church, which stands in the centre of the village, is dedicated to St Wilfrid, and has a low square tower containing two bells. The chancel contains some memorials of the Woolhouse and Welby families.

HOLME, a little village, now situated on the opposite side of the Trent, upwards of half a mile to the north-east of North Muskham, was once a hamlet to that place, but about the year 1600, the river, by changing its course after a flood, separated the two

villages, which are now only connected by a ferry. Early in the seventeenth century, the greater part of Holme belonged to Sir Thomas Barton, a man of great possessions in Lancashire, whose ancestor, according to Thoroton, "built a fair chapel like a parish church at this place," and erected for himself a "fair stone house," and having been a merchant of the staple, and not unmindful of his origin, he adorned the windows of his mansion with this quaint posie—

"I thanke God, and ever shalle,  
It is the schepe hath payed for alle."

The Barton's estate here passed into the hands of the noble family of Belasys, through the marriage of the heiress with Lord Belasys, a son of the first Viscount Fauconberg, and it was this same Lord Belasys who so gallantly defended the town of Newark for Charles I. Some part of the old mansion erected by the Barton family yet remains, and is occupied by a farmer. The church is dedicated to St Giles, and exhibits sufficient traces of antiquity to refute Thoroton's assertion that it was built by one of the Barton's, for the connection of that family with Holme certainly did not extend so far back as the thirteenth century—the most recent date to which some portion of the fabric can be ascribed. There can be no doubt, however, that the church was considerably enlarged by the Bartons in the fifteenth century, and their armorial bearings are carved in various parts of the church, and appear in old stained glass in the windows, together with mutilated figures of saints and fragments of inscriptions. Beneath an arch between the chancel and a side chapel is an altar-tomb, supposed to commemorate Ralph and Eleanor Barton, and their son, Ralph, who died in 1579, which bears two recumbent effigies, and beneath them lies the

ghastly and emaciated figure of a young man, as he would appear after death from a lingering illness, accompanied by the following Latin inscription, equivalent to Job's touching lament:—

*“Miserere mei, miserere mei, saltern vos amici mei, quia manus Domini teteget me.”*

On the floor of the nave may be found the upper slab of an old altar, recognisable by its five incised crosses, which symbolise the five wounds of Christ, and in the side chapel is a plain floor-stone to John Belasys, Esq., who died in 1717. The outside of the porch exhibits seven shields, upon which are carved the arms of the staple merchants of London, together with those of the Barton family and others, surrounded by various emblematic devices, which should be noticed. Over the porch is a small room, about eight feet square, commonly called “Nan Scott's chamber,” from an old woman who took refuge therein when the plague visited Holme in 1666, and who, when compelled to leave her place of refuge in search of food, was so horrified to find the village deserted by all but herself and one other person, that she returned to the church, and there spent the rest of her life. The room still contains a strong old box, *in* which she said to have slept, and some of her clothes and articles of furniture remained here for very many years. The new Hall, a plain mansion, stands upon an estate once the property of Archbishop Secker, and was built by his heir-at-law, Mr Thomas Frost. Within the walls of a small, unpretending cottage, which until lately stood at the southern extremity of the village of Holme, the notorious outlaw, Dick Turpin, is said to have found frequent shelter, and within the last fifty years, richly embroidered pistol-holsters, and other

articles which were reputed to have belonged to him, were here preserved. Tradition adds that at this stage of his famous ride to York, Dick Turpin procured some cordial for his horse, and the story gathers support from the fact of Holme being within a mile of the Great North road, and yet separated from it by the river Trent, and this circumstance, combined with the seclusion of the cottage, and its proximity to an easy ford, would, on the whole, form a retreat not unworthy of the tact and caution for which Turpin was so famous.

SOUTH MUSKHAM lies on the opposite side of the Trent, upwards of a mile to the south of North Muskham, and about two miles to the north of the town of Newark. Some fragments of old stained glass may be found in the windows of the parish church, which, like that of North Muskham, is dedicated to St Wilfrid. At South Carlton, a little hamlet, situated about a mile to the west of the village, are the remains of an old manor-house, once the seat of the family of Marshall. An ancient chapel is said to have once been attached to this mansion, and a stone coffin, found here some years ago, is now used as a water-trough in a neighbouring farm-yard. The high road between the bridge over the Trent near South Muskham and the bridge over the Devon at Newark, was so frequently inundated during the winter months, that the traffic along the Great North road, of which this forms a part, was seriously impeded; and in 1770 it was found expedient to connect the two bridges by a raised flood-road, which was accordingly constructed by *Smeaton*, at a cost of £12,000, and now bids defiance to the highest floods.

## EXCURSION XV.

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*FROM NEWARK-UPON-TRENT, THROUGH FARN-  
DON AND EAST STOKE, TO SIBTHORPE AND  
STAUNTON, RETURNING TO NEWARK BY  
COTHAM AND HAWTON.*

FARNDON, a considerable and well-built village, situated on the ancient Fosse road near to the banks of the Trent, about two miles above Newark, has been considered by several authorities to occupy the site of the Roman station *Ad Pontem*, concerning which there has been so much disputation. It does not appear, however, that any important Roman remains have ever been discovered in the immediate vicinity of this place. Upwards of a mile southward is

THORPE, a little village, having a small church, dedicated to St Lawrence, recently restored and partly rebuilt, in which may be found two mutilated sepulchral effigies of Sir William de Thorpe and Dame Margaret, his wife, dating from about the time of Edward III. There were formerly several other old monuments, which have unfortunately been destroyed.

EAST STOKE, which lies nearly a mile to the west-south-west of Thorpe, is very pleasantly situated at a short distance from the banks of the river Trent. The church is dedicated to St Oswald, and has recently been restored. The Hall, a fine modern mansion, standing upon a slight elevation near to the church, embosomed in woods and thriving plantations, is the seat and property of Sir Henry Bromley, Bart. Here was formerly an ancient hospital, dedicated to St Leonard,

and founded not long after the Norman invasion, but of which no remains are now to be found. At this place was born Dr John Lightfoot, chancellor of the University of Cambridge, who is well known as one of the most erudite and profound Hebrew scholars of the seventeenth century. Stoke Field, which is about a mile to the south-east of the village, is noted as the scene of a bloody conflict, fought in 1487 between the royal army commanded by Henry VII. in person, and the insurgents who had espoused the cause of Lambert Simnel, the pretended Earl of Warwick, and claimant for the Crown. After a contest of three hours the rebels were defeated along the whole line, the total loss on both sides amounting to more than seven thousand men; all the leaders of Simnel's army being put to the sword, with the exception of Lord Lovel, who had taken a very active part in the rebellion, but who escaped from the fray, and was either drowned in attempting to cross the Trent, or was compelled to conceal himself for the rest of his days.

ELSTON, a straggling village, situated upwards of a mile south-south-east of East Stoke, having an old church (recently restored and beautified at the expense of the Darwin family, of whom it contains numerous memorials), and likewise an ancient chapel, formerly annexed to the vicarage of East Stoke, exhibiting some traces of Norman architecture. The Hall, which occupies the site of an ancient mansion, probably erected by some of the Lassels family, is now the residence of John Thorpe, Esq., but is the property of Francis Darwin, Esq., by whose father-in-law it was rebuilt some years ago. Dr Erasmus Darwin, a poet of some merit, and a learned medical writer of the last century, was born here.

SYERSTON, a little village, lying about three quarters



of a mile west-south-west of Elston, has an old church, but presents nothing of any interest. The Hall is the seat and property of George Henry Fillingham, Esq., J.P.

SIBTHORPE, another little village, situated in a broad valley, upwards of a mile and a half south-west of Syerston, formerly boasted of a college, founded in the middle of the fourteenth century by Thomas de Sibthorpe, parson of Beckingham, in Lincolnshire, for a secular priest or warden, and eight or nine other priests, with three or more clerks to sing treble, who were daily to celebrate masses in the church of St Peter, at Sibthorpe, for the souls of Edward III. and his successors, and for the souls of the founder and various members of his family, and of all the faithful departed. All traces of this college have passed away, except some marks of the foundations of the buildings and the old fish-ponds, which can still be distinctly traced. An old dove-cot of a circular form is in existence, but this is said to have been built of a portion of the materials when the collegiate buildings were pulled down. The church consists of an Early English tower, which appears at one time to have been surmounted by a short spire, a small nave with a side aisle rebuilt about a century ago, and a peculiarly fine chancel in the Decorated style, containing a very interesting and curious Easter sepulchre, which is unfortunately partly concealed by a large alabaster tomb, bearing the recumbent effigy of Edward Burnell, Esq., who died, in 1589, and inscribed, "By me Barbara Burnell. God grant us a joyful resurrection." At this place was born in 1693, Dr Thomas Secker, one of the brightest ornaments of his native country, who became Bishop of Bristol in 1735, was translated to the see of Oxford in 1737, and was raised to the

dignity of Archbishop of Canterbury in 1758. His embroidered cope, together with his gold snuff-box, and a jewelled portrait, presented to him by George III., whom he baptised, confirmed, married, and crowned, are preserved by a neighbouring clergyman, who derives his descent from a common ancestor with the Archbishop.

SHELTON occupies an elevated situation on the western banks of the river Smite, upwards of a mile south-east of Sibthorpe. The Hall, which was built in the early part of the present century by the late Lieut.-Colonel Robert Hall, is a handsome mansion, now the seat and property of the Rev. Joseph Banks Wright. The church is a small, ancient structure, containing some memorials to the Warburton family, and a small tablet to the father of Dr Thomas Secker, Archbishop of Canterbury.

STAUNTON, a small village, lying about a mile and three quarters east-south-east of Shelton, is pleasantly situated at a short distance from the banks of the river Devon, near to where the three counties of Nottingham, Lincoln, and Leicester meet together. This place gave name to a very ancient family who were seated here since the days of the Saxons, holding their lands in Staunton by the tenure of "castle guard," by keeping and defending a tower in the neighbouring castle of Belvoir, to this day called Staunton's Tower; and there is an ancient custom, still duly observed, that the head of the family of Staunton should present the key of this tower to any of the Royal Family who may honour Belvoir with their presence. One notable member of this ancient house was Sir Henry de Staunton, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer in the time of Edward II., the munificent founder of the St Michael's Hall at Cambridge, an establishment now absorbed in Trinity

College. The eldest branch of this family became extinct, in the male line, in 1688, on the death of Harvey Staunton, Esq., but the descendants of his eldest daughter and coheiress assumed the name and arms of Staunton, and the manor now belongs to the Rev. Francis Staunton, who resides at the Hall, a spacious old mansion, occupying a somewhat elevated situation, and commanding fine views of the castle and vale of Belvoir. Near the hall stands the venerable parish church, within the walls of which may be found several ancient, cross-legged, sepulchral effigies, and numerous other memorials of the Staunton family.

COTHAM, which lies about three miles northward of Staunton, on the high road leading to Newark, is a small, unpretending village, having a little church, dedicated to St Michael, in which there is a fine mural monument, adorned with effigies, to Anne, wife of Robert Markham, Esq., 1601; and two other old monuments without inscriptions. Here was formerly a stately mansion belonging to a younger branch of the Markham family, who obtained this manor through a coheiress of the family of Leek. Sir John Markham, of Cotham, greatly distinguished himself by his valour in the battle of Stoke, in 1488, but being, as Thoroton tells us, "an unruly spirited man," he subsequently had such violent contentions with the villagers of the adjacent parish of Long Bennington, in Lincolnshire, relative to the boundaries of their lordships, that he actually killed some of them and hung their priest, for which offence he was compelled to leave his house at Cotham, and live concealed for some years. His descendant, Sir Robert Markham, a thriftless, extravagant man, became so deeply involved in pecuniary difficulties, that he was at length obliged to dispose of

this estate about the time of Charles I., and the mansion was soon afterwards taken down. About forty years ago, in filling up some fish-ponds which had belonged to the old hall, a portion of a Roman pavement was discovered.

At HAWTON, a little village situated on the banks of the river Devon, about two miles northward of Cotham, and two miles south-south-west of Newark, the tourist will find one of the most beautiful and richly adorned country churches of which this part of England can boast. This church, which is dedicated to All Saints, is composed of a nave and chancel, with north and south aisles, south porch, and a square pinnaced tower. The piers and arches and a portion of the wall on the north side are Early English; the eastern ends of the aisles, the base mouldings, the buttresses, and parts of the walls of the aisles, together with the whole of the chancel, are Decorated; whilst the clerestory, aisle windows, south porch, and tower are Perpendicular. The chancel, which is by far the finest part of the structure, and affords a grand example of the enriched architecture of the thirteenth century, is partitioned from the nave by a carved oak screen of Perpendicular character, and contains a magnificent triple sedilia, exquisitely wrought, and surmounted by very beautiful canopies, adorned with statues of saints, and an equally beautiful double piscina. On the north side of the chancel there is also an Easter sepulchre, elaborately sculptured, and of very rich and extraordinary design; and near the sepulchre is the founder's tomb, consisting of an arched recess, beneath which lies the cross-legged effigy of Sir William Compton (to whose piety this noble chancel owes its erection), who is clad in a complete suit of chain mail, having a shield upon his left arm, charged with three helmets

—the cognisance of the ancient house of Compton. At the back of this tomb, which possesses all the richness and beauty which was justly due to the memory of so pious and munificent a man, is a small and curious hagioscope. The tower and some other parts of this church were built, in the latter half of the fifteenth century, by the then lord of the manor, Sir Thomas Molyneux, whose arms appear on either side of the great western doorway of the tower, which yet retains a fine old oak door, of the same date as the fabric itself. On the floor of the chancel is a small brass-plate, without date, to an infant son of Thomas Halgh, of Wigtoft, in Lincolnshire; but the brass of Degory Adys, Knight of the Sepulchre and merchant of Calais, 1521, and those to Robert Molyneux, 1539, and William Molyneux, 1541, which are mentioned by Thoroton, have disappeared, together with all the numerous armorial bearings with which the windows of this church were once adorned. From Hawton, the tourist may either proceed by the road, leading past the militia barracks direct into Newark, or turn to the right down a narrow lane into the village of Balderton.

## EXCURSION XVI.

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*FROM NEWARK-UPON-TRENT TO BALDERTON,  
BARNBY-IN-THE-WILLOWS, AND CODDING-  
TON, ALONG THE VALLEY OF THE TRENT BY  
COLLINGHAM, NORTHWARD TO BROAD-  
HOLME.*

BALDERTON, a large, well-built village, lies about two miles to the south-east of Newark. The church, which is dedicated to St Giles, exhibits some interesting Norman work, and has a richly ornamented Norman porch of exceeding beauty and in good preservation, of which an engraving may be found in the 76th volume of the "Gentleman's Magazine." The remainder of the fabric dates from the commencement of the fourteenth century, with the exception of a part of the tower and the fine crocketed spire, which appear to have been erected at least a century later. The chancel is partitioned from the nave by a good Perpendicular rood-screen, and contains several handsome modern monuments to the family of Sikes, of the Chauntry House, in Newark. About a mile to the south of the village is the new Hall, built in 1840 by the late Thomas Spragging Godfrey, Esq., and now the residence of his son.

BARNBY-IN-THE-WILLOWS is a small rural village, lying about four miles to the east-south-east of Newark, on the banks of the river Witham, here forming the boundary between the counties of Nottingham and Lincoln. The church is a small structure, mainly in the Early Decorated style of architecture,

containing some curious old wooden benches with carved ends. In the chancel are various memorials of the family of Sharpe, the most noticeable of which is a well-sculptured mural monument, with a bust of Mary, daughter of George Sharpe, Esq., who died in 1742. Near the church there formerly stood an old moated mansion belonging to the Sharpe family, which was taken down about sixty years ago.

CODDINGTON occupies a considerable eminence, about two miles to the north-west of Barnby-in-the-Willows, at a distance of two miles and a half eastward from Newark. As an instance of very remarkable feudal tenure, it may be noted that in the time of Henry III. Walter de Maresco held some portion of this manor by the service of annually providing the king with a pair of scarlet breeches! The church, a small venerable structure, formerly a chapel annexed to the vicarage of East Stoke, has recently been thoroughly restored. Some years since, an interesting *bull* *plumbata* of the fourteenth century was found in this church, bearing the name of Pope Clement V. About a mile to the west of the church is Beaconfield, a spacious modern residence, now the seat of James Thorpe, Esq., J.P., who within the last few years has made very extensive plantations in the vicinity, and materially improved both the mansion and grounds. Near here, upon the highest part of "Beacon Hill," stood the old beacon, which in bygone days served to warn the townsmen of Newark and the country people round of any impending danger; and it was doubtless from this spot that the intelligence of the Spanish Armada was spread to the surrounding country, when—

"Belvoir's lordly terraces the sign to Lincoln sent,—  
And Lincoln sped the message on o'er the wide vale of Trent."

WINTHORPE, a pleasant little village, picturesquely situated upon a richly wooded elevation above the Trent, about two miles from the town of Newark, appears to have been a place of considerable antiquity, and, indeed, may be thought to have some claim to be considered as having been the *Ad Pontem* of the Romans; for, after a long drought in the summer of 1792, the Trent was so low in its bed as to reveal the foundations of an immense bridge, a little below the village. The masonry of this bridge was thought to be Roman—an idea which is borne out by the fact of its existence being unknown, and ignored even by tradition. Within a quarter of a mile of this spot are the remains of a tumulus of somewhat unusual dimensions, and some vestiges of what was, in all probability, a Roman encampment. Winthorpe Hall, a fine mansion, now the seat of Thomas Duncombe, Esq., was erected about the middle of the last century by Dr Robert Taylor, the son of a Newark innkeeper, who rose to be physician-extraordinary to George III., and whose life affords an extraordinary instance of sudden success and quick reverse. The church is well situated amidst a grove of trees, in the highest part of the village, but presents nothing of interest, having been entirely rebuilt of brick in 1778, with the exception of the south wall, which formed a part of the ancient structure. The advowson of this benefice was bestowed on the Corporation of Newark by Charles II., in 1672, as a tardy acknowledgment of that town's loyalty to his father.

LANGFORD (formerly called Landford) is a small, scattered village, standing upon a slight rising ground about a mile beyond Winthorpe. The parish church of St Bartholomew is principally in the Early English style of architecture, and contains the mutilated effigy



of an armed knight of the fifteenth century, who, from the rampant lion and the cinquefoils upon his surcoat, appears to have been a member of the Pierrepont family, once territorially connected with this place. The Hall, a large, plain, brick mansion, standing at some little distance from the village, is now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Middleton, and is occupied by Thomas Fowke Andrew Burnaby, Esq.

BROUGH, a small hamlet, lying on the Fosseway, about a mile eastward of Langford, undoubtedly occupies the site of the old Roman station *Crocolana*. No Roman remains are now visible, but the foundations of walls and buildings, and the remains of what must have been a great gate, together with numerous antiquities, have been discovered in the immediate vicinity, and Roman coins are so frequently found as to have acquired the local appellation of "Brough pennies." Stukely states that *Crocolana* was entirely destroyed by the Danes about the year 1016, in one of those ruthless forays which so much disturbed the reign of Edmund Ironsides, and the discovery of many human remains on Danethorpe hills—a little to the south of Brough—certainly render some support to the assertion. Stukely adds further: "They say here was a church upon a place called Chapel-yard, and a font was once taken up there. The old landlady at the little ale-house, which was the only house there till Thomas Cope's and another were lately built, says that where her fire-place is, the cross once stood, and that the whole is fairy ground, and very lucky to live on." Near the Fosse road, about a mile and a half beyond Brough, is an eminence called Potter Hill, which has been considered the site of a Roman outpost—in consequence perhaps of the extensive view obtained from its summit. The nature of the soil

renders it not improbable that its name was derived from a pottery once situated there and perhaps worked by the Romans.

NORTH and SOUTH COLLINGHAM together form a large, pleasant, and well-built village,\* occupying a gentle eminence above the Trent marsh, about five miles and a half northward from Newark, and having a station on the Midland line of railway. The church of South Collingham, which is worthy of inspection, dates from the earlier part of the twelfth century, although the greater part of the fabric is of later construction. North Collingham church has a late Norman tower, and exhibits some traces of Early English work. A portion of this church is said to have been erected about the year 1316, by Godfrid, Abbot of Peterborough. In the porch are two interesting sepulchral slabs, bearing figures of civilians of the fourteenth century. There is a tradition of some pious nuns having lived at Collingham in the seventh century, who, in order to make themselves repulsive to the pirate Danes, and so preserve their chastity, cut off their noses and lips. Several historians have adopted this quaint tradition, and it has been believed that the nunnery inhabited by these devotees was destroyed by the Danes, along with the Abbeys of Crowland, Ely, and Peterborough. Others maintain that the Collingham, where the chaste women lived, was a town in Scotland, and that their nunnery was a cell to the Abbey of Durham. It must, however, be added that in 1863 some workmen discovered the foundations of a very large building upon the very

\* A few years ago Dr Wake published a "History of Collingham and its Neighbourhood," which is specially recommended to the notice of those tourists who desire to know more of this part of the county.

spot which had been indicated for generations as the site of the convent of "the bloody nuns of Collingham." At Collingham was born Dr John Blow, the celebrated musical composer, the pupil of Gibbons and the teacher of Purcell, who died in 1708.

SOUTH SCARLE, a small village, situated near the borders of the county, seven miles to the north-north-east of Newark, has a small, ancient church, dedicated to St Helen, chiefly in the Early English style of architecture. In it may be found the remains of a wooden screen, and an elaborately carved pew, formerly occupied by the Knights Hospitallers of Eagle Hall, and also an incised slab with the effigy of Sir William Mering, who died in 1509.

GIRTON, another small village, lying near the banks of the Trent, about nine miles to the north of Newark, is so situated as to be completely insulated, and indeed partly submerged, during great floods. The church is a venerable structure, occupying somewhat higher ground than the remainder of the village, and within its walls the poor inhabitants were formerly permitted to bed and board when driven from their homes by the overflowing of the river.

SOUTH CLIFTON, a somewhat larger village, lies near to the river Trent, about two miles and a half beyond Girton, and upwards of a mile northward is

NORTH CLIFTON, a scattered village, which like most others in this part of the county presents very little worthy of notice. The church is partly in the Early English style, with additions of the Perpendicular period, and has been very greatly improved within the last few years through the liberality of George Freeth, Esq., an extensive landowner in this parish. Pegge, the antiquary, who visited this place many years ago, remarks that the red sandstone cliff

near the Trent, from which the two villages of Clifton derive their name, produces innumerable fragments of ancient urns of various colours, and that here, too, are found many bones, metal ornaments, and other antiquities. It is perhaps worthy of mention that the villagers of Clifton used to be free of the ferry across the Trent, and in return for this valuable privilege the ferryman and his dog could claim the poor compensation of a dinner at the vicarage-house every Christmas-day, on which occasion the vicar's dog was ostentatiously turned out of doors, while his humble brother of the ferry was feasted within; and the ferryman was likewise given a "prime loaf" by the villagers. It need hardly be added that this custom has long fallen into disuse.

THORNEY is situated upwards of two miles to the eastward of North Clifton, and has a fine modern church, in the Norman style, recently erected at considerable expense, upon the site of an older edifice, by the Rev. Christopher Nevile, and other members of his family. Two miles to the eastward of Thorney is BROADHOLME, an insignificant hamlet, standing upon the most eastern part of Nottinghamshire, near to the borders of Lincolnshire, only remarkable as being the place where the first Præmonastratensian Priory ever built in England was founded in the reign of King Stephen by the munificence of Peter de Gousla and Agnes de Camville, his wife. Unfortunately not a trace of the monastic buildings remain.

At HARBY, a little village, situated near the borders of the county, upwards of two miles south-south-west of Thorney, may yet be found some slight indications of the site of the ancient mansion where the "Good Queen" Eleanor, the consort of Edward I., expired on the 28th of November 1290. Shortly after the

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Queen's decease, her royal husband founded a chauntry-chapel at this place, which was eventually removed to Lincoln; and here was erected the first of the thirteen beautiful crosses originally marking the several stages of the funeral procession on its way to Westminster, but the cross at Harby has long been destroyed. There is now a small mean chapel-of-ease in the village, previous to the erection of which divine service was for many years celebrated at irregular intervals in an old building, believed to have originally formed some part of the stables or outbuildings of the ancient mansion. A handsome new church is now in course of erection.

## EXCURSION XVII.

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*TUXFORD, WEST MARKHAM, HAUGHTON, ORD-SALL, ETC., AND NORTHWARD ALONG THE VALLEY OF THE TRENT, BY EAST MARKHAM, RAMPTON, AND GRINGLEY-ON-THE-HILL, TO THE CARS.*

TUXFORD, an unimportant market-town, is situated upon the opposite side of the river Trent, in the midst of a very productive agricultural district, at a distance of seven miles south by east of East Retford, and twenty-eight miles north-north-east of Nottingham, having an annual fair, and a well frequented weekly market, held every Monday. This place which is often denominated Tuxford-in-the-Clay, to designate its situation in the South Clay division of the Bassetlaw Hundred, and not, as Gough says, "branded to a proverb, for its miry situation," is a small town of modern appearance, having been almost entirely rebuilt since 1702, when the old town was destroyed by fire. It has no manufactures, and the only branch of trade, which is somewhat extensive, is in hops, of which large quantities are grown in the neighbourhood. Before the introduction of railways, Tuxford was well known as a posting-stage upon the Great North road, and had several noted inns, and at the present day the tourist may find tolerable accommodation either at the Newcastle Arms, or at the Tuxford Hotel. The church, which has a lofty spire, and a peal of five good bells, is dedicated to St Nicholas, and exhibits portions in various styles of architecture. Within its walls may

be found a rude representation of St Lawrence roasting upon a gridiron, and several curious sepulchral effigies, worthy of notice. Beneath an arched recess in the north wall lies the figure of a woman clad in a long straight gown, and opposite to her is the mutilated effigy of an armed knight; and in the north porch is an ancient coffin-shaped stone upon which is carved the upper part of the effigy of a priest, accompanied by a chalice and paten, and other emblems of the sacerdotal office. Thoroton tells us that there was a college here, founded in 1357 by Sir John de Longvillers, who obtained license to place in the parsonage-house of Tuxford a college of five chaplains, one of whom was to be warden, but by a subsequent arrangement he gave the advowson of Tuxford Church to the Priory of Newstead, conditionally that the brethren of that establishment should for ever find five chantry priests, three to be at Tuxford, and two in their own conventual church at Newstead, whose duty should be to continually pray for his soul, and for the souls of his ancestors. Here is also a good grammar-school for the sons of the widows of poor clergymen or decayed gentry, founded in 1669 by Mr Charles Read, who founded a similar institution at Corby, in Lincolnshire. The Great Northern Railway passes here, and has a station at this place. Near the town is a spring called "the Holy Well," noted for its healing virtues, and much resorted to by persons suffering from rheumatism and other complaints.

WEST MARKHAM, formerly known as Little Markham, and now not unfrequently designated Markham Clinton, is somewhat picturesquely situated at a short distance from the banks of the river Idle, nearly a mile and a half north-west of Tuxford. This place was once the seat and property of the ancient and

knightly family of Markham, of whom was Sir John Markham, "the upright judge," who was called, so Fuller tells us, "a chief-justice among chief-justices." The manor is now in the hands of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, whose grandfather erected a fine church upon a commanding eminence here, in 1831. This church, which is in the Grecian style, having a portico at the western end, supported by four fluted Doric columns, with a handsome octagonal tower rising from the centre, crowned by a handsome dome, was designed by *Smirke*, and contains the vault of the noble family of Clinton, and here the two last Dukes lie buried. The interior is richly decorated, and contains a fine piece of statuary by *Westmacott*, representing Georgiana Elizabeth, wife of the fourth Duke of Newcastle, and two of her children, in the act of rising at the call of an angel, who is pointing upward, which has been considered one of the happiest effects of that gifted sculptor. The old parish church is a very small structure, standing at the foot of the village, and now disused.

BEVERCOTES is a little village, lying about a mile and three quarters to the west of West Markham, to which place it is ecclesiastically united, having had no church of its own since the middle of the seventeenth century, when the old church here fell down, and was never rebuilt.

At BOTHAMSALL, or BOTTAMSALL, a small village, situated near the confluence of the rivers Wollen and Idle, about a mile and a half north-north-west of Bevercotes, there is a modern church, built by the late Duke of Newcastle in 1844, upon the site of an old and dilapidated fabric. A fine clump of trees, standing near the western end of the village upon a mound, which may fairly be supposed to be an ancient tumulus, are worthy of passing remark.



At HAUGHTON, a small decayed place, lying on the banks of the river Idle, about half a mile from Botham-sall, there was formerly a stately mansion, built in the time of Queen Elizabeth by Sir William Holles, which has been described as "a seat both pleasant and commodious, lying between the Forest and the Clay, and partaking both of the sweet and wholesome air of the one, and of the fertility of the other." This Sir William Holles, whose father was a merchant of London, and Lord Mayor of that city in 1539, is recorded to have lived here in a state of the greatest splendour and hospitality, maintaining an almost princely establishment. His eldest son, John Holles, was created Baron Haughton in 1616, and Earl of Clare in 1624, for which titles he is said to have paid to the Duke of Buckingham, for his influence in obtaining them for him, no less than £10,000—a proceeding by no means unusual in those days, for we are told that "whilst the Duke lived, scarce any man acquired any honour but such as were either his kindred, or had the fortune, or misfortune, to marry his kindred or mistresses, or paid a round sum of money for it." The fourth and last Earl of Clare married the coheiress of Henry Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle, and was himself raised to a dukedom by that title, after the death of his father-in-law, in 1691; and having acquired Welbeck Abbey, through this marriage, he deserted Haughton, and suffered the mansion to fall into delapidation. All that now remains of it is occupied as a farm-house, and the old deer-park, once extending over more than 900 acres, is now completely disparked, and divided into meadows and pastures. The chapel, now a picturesque ruin embowered in trees, standing on the banks of a streamlet, about two hundred yards distant from the site of the old mansion,

contains several mutilated monuments worthy of inspection. Not far from the chapel there is a noted decoy for wild fowl, consisting of 20 acres of water, and about the same extent of "cover."

GAMSTON, a small village, pleasantly situated on the eastern bank of the Idle, nearly three miles north-east of Bothamsall, has a fine old church, dedicated to St Peter, which was carefully restored, under the superintendence of Sir Gilbert Scott, in 1855. Some part of this church dates from about the close of the thirteenth century, but it is apparent that many additions and alterations have been made upwards of two centuries later, whilst the chancel is a structure of the sixteenth century, and of a size and height not proportioned to the scale of the church. The tower, which is certainly the finest in this part of Nottinghamshire, is an interesting example of the early Perpendicular style. In the interior of the church will be found two sepulchral slabs, discovered during the restoration of the fabric, which bear incised crosses, probably as early as the eleventh century. On the north side of the altar is the mutilated effigy of a priest, vested in chasuble, alb, stole, and maniple; and built into the south wall is an ancient coffin-shaped slab, upon which is carved a quatrefoil, within which may be seen the upper part of the figure of a priest holding a chalice. At the western end of the side aisle lies the effigy of an armed knight, supposed to be that of Sir Nicholas Monboucher, who died in 1385; and there are also some remains of a tomb to Thomas Thurland, lord of Gamston, who died in 1497.

ORDSALL is a considerable and populous village, boasting, however, of a considerable share of rural beauty, lying on the western side of the Idle, about

two miles and a quarter northward of Gamston. The church was greatly injured by lightning in 1823, and remained in an almost ruinous condition until 1831, when the necessary repairs were effected. The chancel contains several memorials to former rectors and others, and in the north aisle is a large mural monument of the sixteenth century, without inscription, upon which is the figure of a man kneeling before a fald-stool. Here was formerly a quaint Latin epitaph, quoted by Thoroton, to the Rev. William Denman, who, refusing to perform the Romish mass, was ejected from this rectory in the reign of Queen Mary, but was restored to his benefice on the accession of Queen Elizabeth. The ecclesiastical history of this place likewise presents another very remarkable instance of persecution, for in the year 1652, the Rump Parliament not only ejected Dr Marmaduke Moor from this rectory, but also sequestered his paternal estates "for treason, and for the heinous and damnable offence of playing cards, three several times, with his own wife!"

GROVE is a pleasant little village, lying about two miles eastward of Ordsall. Being situated at a short distance from the Roman road, running between the Ermine street and the town of Doncaster, the bold and commanding situation of this place could hardly escape the notice of the Roman generals as a fit site for an exploratory station, and we may, therefore, venture to conclude that the double entrenched mound on the Castle Hill, near the village, although possibly of British construction, was occupied by the Romans for military purposes. The Hall, which is very beautifully situated upon a considerable elevation in the midst of an extensive and thickly wooded park, is a fine old brick gabled mansion, with stone dressings and square

mullioned windows, and is now the seat of Granville Harcourt Vernon, Esq. The south-west front was rebuilt about a century ago by *Carr*, of York, but the remainder of the house is probably not of later date than the time of Henry VIII., when it was the residence of the Hercy family. The parish church of St Helen stands upon an eminence, surrounded by trees rendered venerable from their great age, and contains several old and mutilated sepulchral slabs, amongst which should be noticed one to Hugh Hercy, Esq., who died in 1455, bearing the effigies of that gentleman, and Elizabeth, his wife. There is also a large mural monument to William Levinz, Esq., only son of Sir Cresswell Levinz, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, who died in 1747.

NETHER HEADON and UPPER HEADON together form a small scattered village, situated about a mile and a half south-south-east of Grove. The church, which stands at Upper Headon, is a fine old structure, containing several memorials of the family of Wastneys, who were seated in this place since the time of Edward III. Of this family was Sir Hardolph Wastneys created a baronet by James I., in 1624, whose great-grandson, Sir Hardolph Wastneys, the fourth and last baronet, rebuilt the old hall here in 1710; but the mansion was taken down towards the close of the last century by Antony Hardolph Eyre, Esq., whose mother was the heiress of the Wastneys family. Some portion of the park, however, still remains unenclosed, and the fine old avenue has hitherto escaped the woodman's axe.

At EAST DRAYTON, a little village, lying two miles south east of Headon, there was formerly an old mansion, belonging to the Rayner family, of whom was John Rayner, Esq., who being High Sheriff of the

county in 1660, had the honour of proclaiming the happy restoration of King Charles II.

ASKHAM, once the property of the Archbishops of York, but now chiefly belonging to the ecclesiastical commissioners, is a small, unpretending village, situated two miles to the west-south-west of East Drayton, and three miles north of Tuxford, and is only remarkable as once having been the seat of the Elwys family, the ancestors of the notorious miser. There are some curious old benches of massive oak in the humble little church, which occupies an elevated situation upon a knoll near the village.

EAST MARKHAM, sometimes called GREAT MARKHAM, which lies upwards of a mile south of Askham, and about a mile north-north-east of Tuxford, is a large and populous village, with a fine old church, containing numerous interesting sepulchral monuments, amongst which should be noticed a tomb in the chancel to Sir John Markham, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, who died in 1409, and a good brass to Dame Milcent Mering, who died in 1419. Mirfield Hall, an old brick mansion, standing at some little distance from the village, has belonged to the family of Kirke for several generations, and yet remains in the hands of the same family. The old inn on Markham Moor was used in former days as a posting-stage by the various public conveyances, and before the introduction of railways was a noted and much frequented hostelry.

Near DARLTON, a little village, situated about two miles eastward of East Markham, stands Kingshaugh, a very curious old mansion, occupying the site, if not actually a part, of the original building occasionally used as a hunting-lodge by King John, who is recorded to have enclosed the king's hay, or wood, from which the place derived its name, and to have formed

an extensive park here, and who is stated by Thoroton to have "made war in this place" against his brother, Richard I.

DUNHAM is pleasantly situated upon a gentle eminence on the western bank of the Trent, two miles to the east of Darlton, and six miles east-north-east of Tuxford, and has a large parish church, dedicated to St Oswald, rebuilt, with the exception of the tower, in 1805. The broad and shallow ford which formerly crossed the Trent at this place was superseded upwards of forty years ago by the erection of a handsome cast-iron bridge of four equal arches, springing at the extremities from two solid butments of masonry, and supported in the middle by three light stone piers. The spring tides rise here about four feet, but the common tides are barely perceptible. Dunham formerly had an annual fair and a weekly market, both now disused.

LANEHAM, a small, unpretending village, lying about a mile north-north-west of Dunham, is only remarkable as the place where Thomas de Corbridge, fortieth Archbishop of York, died in the year 1303.

RAMPTON is a considerable village, occupying a low situation in the valley of the Trent, nearly two miles north-north-west of Laneham. The manor of Rampton has descended in regular succession to the present possessor from a period not long after the Norman invasion; being held by the De Ramptons and Maulovells, and coming into the hands of the Stanhope family, through marriage, about the time of Richard II., passed from them, in like manner, to the Babington family, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and from them it descended to a branch of the ancient Derbyshire family of Eyre, from whom the present lord of the manor, Henry Eyre, Esq., derives his descent.

The old Hall, built in the reign of Henry VIII., was taken down about the middle of the last century, with the exception of a curious old gateway, still standing, which is richly adorned with the armorial bearings of the families of Stanhope, Babington, and Eyre. Several ancient monuments to these same families are to be found in the parish church, which has recently been partially restored. In 1853, a handsome and costly mansion in the Elizabethan style was erected here by Henry Eyre, Esq., J.P., whose residence it now is.

LITTLEBOROUGH, a small village, situated on the banks of the Trent, about three miles north-east of Rampton, is a place of very considerable interest, and is generally believed to have been that important Roman station which in the Itinerary of Antoninus is called *Angelocum*, or *Segelocum*, and is placed upon the military way leading from Lincoln to Doncaster, which ancient way now forms the high road through Littleborough. Great numbers of Roman imperial coins were found here in Camden's time, and were then locally known as "swine pennies," being so near the surface as to be frequently rooted up by those animals. Stukely, in his description of Littleborough at the early part of the last century, says that it is a small village, built upon the edge of the river within a broad bend, and adds that it appears to have been encompassed by a single ditch of square form, with water running quite round it, so that it was a station of very considerable strength. He also observes that the Trent has washed away some part of the eastern side of the ancient town, and that in his time old foundations and pavements were visible in the bank of the river. In 1684, when the enclosures between the river and the village were first ploughed up, many coins of Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Constantine,

and others were found, together with intaglios of agate or cornelian, the finest coloured urns and *patera*,—some very beautifully wrought in high relief, with the workman's name impressed on the inside of the bottom—and also a fine *discus*, or quoit, with an emperor's head embossed upon it. Again, in 1718, two handsomely moulded altars were dug up, and these were placed as piers in a wall on the side of the steps, leading from the waterside to the village inn, but are now in the possession of Francis John Savile Foljambe, Esq., of Osberton. Stukely adds, that near to White's bridge, he saw extensive foundations of an old building, and that in dry seasons, when the tide was low, Roman coins were often found at low water mark. Littleborough ferry, which crosses the Trent near to the village, is closely adjacent to the site of the old Roman ford, which was composed of a well-built stone pavement, protected by strong oak posts, and which remained in a singularly perfect state of preservation until within the last few years, when this most interesting work was unfortunately demolished by the Trent Navigation Company. There are now few traces of the old Roman station at Littleborough to attract the attention of the tourist, but the time-honoured parish church of this place is well worthy of inspection, exhibiting many traces of Norman work, and some portion of the walls, which are partly built in the "herring bone" style, appear to have been constructed of Roman masonry.

STOURTON-IN-THE-CLAY, otherwise called STOURTON-LE-STEEPLE, is a large scattered village lying upwards of two miles and a half north-west of Littleborough. The air of this district is reputed to be especially salubrious, and amongst the inhabitants of Stourton may be found an unusually large proportion who have



attained a very considerable age, and the parochial registers afford numerous remarkable instances of longevity. The church is a fine structure, dedicated to St Peter, having a lofty pinnacled tower, containing a peal of five bells. At Fenton, a little hamlet upwards of half a mile southward of the village, there was formerly an old Hall, belonging to a family whose surname was derived from the place. This family boasts of two distinguished brothers, namely, Sir Richard Fenton, for many years a Privy Councillor of Ireland to Queen Elizabeth and King James, who was much noted in his day for his learning; and Edward Fenton, a naval officer, who acted as pilot to the admiral's ship in the sea-fight against the Spanish Armada in 1588, and who was subsequently very active in the various attempts at discovering the North-West Passage, so much in vogue about that time.

SAUNDBY, a very small village, pleasantly situated upon a rising ground overlooking the river Trent, about two miles and a quarter to the north of Stourton, has a church of some considerable antiquity, dedicated to St Martin, in which may be found a mural monument to John Helwys, Esq., lord of this manor, 1599, together with several other memorials of more or less interest; and in the churchyard there is an old mutilated sepulchral effigy, supposed to commemorate some members of the De Saundby family, which has been most improperly turned out of the church to make way for some modern innovations.

GRINGLEY-ON-THE-HILL, which is three miles north-west of Saundby, is a large, compact, and well-built village, occupying a commanding situation overlooking the wide extent of Misson Car, and a broad expanse of country on every side. The parish church of St Peter and St Paul, which is a very conspicuous object

for many miles round, is a venerable fabric, some part of which is in the Early English style of architecture, and dates from the twelfth century. Near to the church stands a fine old cross, traditionally reputed to have been erected in commemoration of one of the Edwards having passed through this place on his way towards Lincoln. Upon the Beacon Hill, which rises suddenly at the eastern verge of the village, having the appearance of an enormous natural barrow or tumulus, are some remains of what is supposed to have been either a Roman or a Danish encampment. The views from the summit of this hill embrace a circumference seldom equalled, and scarcely to be surpassed for extent, fertility, and picturesque beauty; the steam-packets on the river Ouse, at a distance of upwards of twenty miles, with the town of Howden, towards the north, and Lincoln Minster, at an equal distance towards the south-east, are distinctly visible on a clear day.

WALKERINGHAM, a straggling village lying two miles north-east of Gringley, has an old church, in the chancel of which there is a splendid marble monument, dated 1639, to some members of the Williamson family, whose effigies appear thereon. About a mile and a half northward, is

MISTERTON, a large village, having an old church originally in the Early English style, which was thoroughly restored and partly rebuilt at considerable expense in 1840, when the north aisle, together with the tower and broach-spire, were added.

WEST STOCKWITH, which is situated near the confluence of the rivers Trent and Idle, upwards of a mile and a half eastward of Misterton, has risen from a small hamlet to a flourishing river-port, since the Idle was made navigable as far as Bawtry, and since

the construction of the Chesterfield canal, whose principal basin is near this place. The chapel-of-ease was built in 1722, pursuant to the will of William Huntingdon, who in 1715 bequeathed a sum of money for the erection in his ship-yard of a chapel and ten almshouses for the reception of poor widows of mariners and ship-carpenters. In the time of Henry III. a market was held here, and there is still an annual fair of some repute for horses and cattle.

Misson is a large and populous village, lying partly in Lincolnshire on the northern banks of the river Idle, about four miles eastward of Misterton. In 1652, the greater part of this place was destroyed by a conflagration, which commenced on a Sunday morning whilst the people were in church.

FINNINGLEY, the most northern village in Nottinghamshire, is situated on the borders of Lincolnshire, three miles north-north-east of Misson, having a station on the Great Northern line of railway. The church is dedicated to St Oswald, and was repaired and ornamented in a somewhat incongruous style about fifty years ago. The manor formerly belonged to the Frobisher family, of whom was Sir Martin Frobisher, an enterprising navigator, who was sent out by Queen Elizabeth in 1567, with three ships, in hopes of discovering a north-west passage to India, and who subsequently led the rear of the English fleet against the Spanish Armada, for which service he received the honour of knighthood.

THE CARS, belonging to the townships of Misterton, Everton, Scaftworth, Gringley-on-the-Hill, and Walkeringham, originally formed the southern portion of that extensive tract of flat marsh land, known as the "Levels of Hatfield Chase," which embraced an area of nearly 70,000 acres, stretching far into Yorkshire

and Lincolnshire. The Cars, or Nottinghamshire portion, reaches in length from near Bawtry to the Trent, a distance of about eight miles, varying in breadth, but averaging nearly two miles, and containing about 10,000 acres, unequally divided amongst the above-mentioned townships. The river Idle and its artificial deviation, called the Bycar Dyke, which traverses this part from Bawtry to the Trent near Stockwith, being found incapable of sufficiently draining the district, and this department of civil engineering not being well understood in England at that time, Sir Cornelius Vermudun, a Dutch gentleman, was consulted in 1650, and he, with the aid of Dutch and Flemish labourers, widened the Bycar Dyke, formed numerous embankments and drains, and constructed a sluice. These operations were, however, subsequently found to be inadequate, and Acts of Parliament were successively passed in 1796, 1801, and 1813, under power of which further measures were pursued, and notwithstanding the immense expense necessarily entailed by these operations, the landed proprietors have already been amply remunerated by the greatly improved value of the soil.

## EXCURSION XVIII.

### *BLYTH, BAWTRY, AND ENVIRONS.*

BLYTH is so called, according to the venerable topographer, John Norden, "*A jocunditate*," which, says Fuller, "I desire may be extended all over the shire; being confident that one ounce of mirth, with the same degree of grace, will serve God more and be more acceptable than a pound of sorrow—a sentiment in which we may concur more readily than we could in the very doubtful etymology from which it arose." This place, which has been appropriately styled a market-town without a market, lies partly in Yorkshire, on the eastern bank of the little river Ryton, four miles south-by-west of Bawtry, and seven miles from Worksop and East Retford.\* The market, formerly held on each Wednesday, has long been obsolete. After the Norman invasion, Roger de Busli, one of the most powerful of William the Conqueror's followers, had a castle here, and this same Roger, "being of a pious and grateful disposition, with the consent of his wife Muriel," founded here a Priory of the Benedictine order, about the year 1068, to the honour of the Virgin Mary, which was in some respects subordinate to the Abbey of the Holy Mount of St Catherine at Rouen, in Normandy. The Priory church, of which some considerable part remains, is

\* "The History and Antiquities of the Parish of Blyth," by the Rev. John Raine, late vicar of the parish, contains a very complete account of this interesting place, and is one of the best local histories of which Nottinghamshire can boast.

a fine old building, now consisting of a nave, chancel, side aisles, south porch, and tower, although it formerly possessed, in addition, transepts, and a large choir, with an apsidal recess at the eastern end, and a massive central tower, probably owing to the fact that the conventual and parish churches were under the same roof, each possessing its own chancel and screen. The present chancel is at the end of the south aisle, the two compartments corresponding with the chancel at the eastern ends of the nave and north aisle, having long been appropriated by the owners of Blyth Hall, the grounds of which are adjoining the church on the eastern side. Consequently, where the visitor would naturally expect to see the great east window of the chancel, there is internally only a blocked arch, being one of those upon which the great central tower rested, and externally there is a deep recess, known as "the Aviary," and, indeed, once used as such by the Mellish family, an ancestor of whom appears to have been the principal agent in vandalizing this grand old structure. The greater portion of the church is in the Norman style, but there are considerable additions belonging to the Decorated period; and the existing tower is a fine example of the Perpendicular work of the fifteenth century. Only a few mutilated fragments of the more ancient sepulchral monuments remain, with the exception of a stone coffin lid, bearing a very beautiful fleuriated cross, and a plain slab, in the chancel, to John Albarne, vicar of Blyth, who died in 1476. There are several handsome modern monuments to the Mellish family, one of which is adorned with a well-sculptured effigy of Edward Mellish, Esq., a Portugal merchant, who died in 1703; and there is also a very beautiful old rood screen, containing in the lower panels curiously painted

figures of St Barbara, St Stephen, St Euphemia, St Edmund, and St Ursula. Blyth Hall is a fine handsome structure of red brick with stone facings, occupying a gentle eminence near the church; the mansion was erected by the family of Mellish upon the site of a portion of the conventual buildings, but is now the seat and property of Henry Frederick Walker, Esq., J.P. At Blyth Spital, which lies at a short distance from the town, an hospital was founded in the time of King John, by William de Cressy, Lord of Hodsock, for persons labouring under the disease of leprosy. A modern house, now the residence of Henry Beavor, Esq., J.P., occupies the site of this hospital. Some Roman remains have been discovered, on a farm called Mantles, near here.

HODSOCK is a district of scattered houses extending westward from Blyth, to the borders of Yorkshire, and here there was formerly a stately mansion, successively the properties of the families of Cressy and Clifton, but not a vestige of it remains beyond some traces of the moat, and a picturesque old gateway of red brick, with a quasi-machicolated parapet and solid flanking turrets, probably dating from the early part of the sixteenth century. The Hall, a large modern mansion, well situated and surrounded by extensive grounds, is now the residence of Mrs Mellish, and the property of her son, Henry Mellish, Esq., a minor. An old chapel here, dating from the time of Edward II., and repaired in 1666, was burnt down towards the close of the last century, and has not since been rebuilt.

SERLBY HALL, now the seat and property of the Right Hon. the Viscount Galway, stands about a mile and a half north-north-east of Blyth, well situated in a picturesquely undulating deer-park, interspersed

with groups of fine old trees, and watered by the little river Ryton. The present mansion is a large modern structure of brick and stone, built in the latter part of the last century, upon the site of an older house. The various apartments contain many fine paintings, amongst which should be mentioned two undoubted originals by *Hans Holbein*, the one being a portrait of Henry VIII., and the other a portrait of Nicholas Kreatzer, astronomer to that monarch; also a fine painting by *Daniel Mytens*, to represent Charles I. and his Queen, accompanied by horses and dogs, and by Jeffery Hudson, the famous dwarf; portrait of Charles I. reputed to have been painted by *Vandyck*; eight views of Venice, by *Canaletti*; and also good portraits of Lord Francis Russell, Lord William Russell, and Lady Catherine Manners and her children.

RANSKILL, a small village situated upon the Great North road about two miles to the east of Blyth, and for several centuries the property of the Archbishops of York, bears a Danish name, signifying "the knoll of the ravens," and was probably a place of some repute in the days when the Danes took possession of this part of the kingdom. Here there is now a station on the Great Northern line of railway.

SCROOBY, a pleasant village, situated on the banks of the river Ryton, nearly three miles to the north-east of Blyth, is included within the limits of the famous manor of Ranskill, aptly described by Raine as "a manor which since Norman times has acknowledged as its lords, and paid suit and service to a long line of mitred prelates, from Thomas to the haughty and ambitious Roger, the rival of Becket; the royal Plantagenet; the virtuous Milton; the munificent Thoresby; the noble-hearted Scrope; the great Wolsey; and Archbishops of York in succession down to our own



age." Here stood a magnificent Palace, long one of the principal seats of the successive archbishops, but of this ancient abode of splendour and hospitality nothing now remains beyond some small part incorporated into a plain farm-house. Leland, writing in 1541, tells us that he saw at Scrooby "a great manor-place standing within a mote, and longging to the Archbishop of Yorke, builded yn to courtes, whereof the first is very ample and all builded of tymbre, saving the front of the haule, that is of bricke, to the wych *ascenditur per gradus lapidis*. The ynner courte building, as far as I marked, was of tymber building, and was not in compace past the 4 parte of the utter courte." In the reign of Henry VII. Scrooby was the favourite hunting-seat of Archbishop Savage, and we are told that his predecessors had enjoyed the right of free-warren here for nearly two centuries before. In the next reign it was the occasional residence of Cardinal Wolsey; and in Queen Elizabeth's time this palace was not only considered as excellent in itself, and more capacious than that at Southwell, but "a better seat for provision"—having a greater jurisdiction, and a fairer park attached to it. Archbishop Sandys appears to have then resided here, at least occasionally, as one of his daughters is interred in the church. During his episcopacy he caused this place to be demised to his son, Sir Samuel Sandys; and the palace was afterwards so much neglected that it had almost fallen to the ground in the early part of the last century, and soon afterwards the large gateway was demolished, and the extensive deer-park being divided was converted into farms. Some traces of the old gardens and fish-ponds may yet be discovered, and an old and tottering mulberry tree, standing near to

the few crumbling remains of the palace, is recorded to have been planted by no less distinguished hands than those of Cardinal Wolsey. But to those tourists who come from beyond the Atlantic there is a still greater interest attached to this unpretending Nottinghamshire village, for it was here that the "Pilgrim Fathers"—a small congregation of earnest if, indeed, mistaken men, who, dissatisfied with the ceremonies and discipline, and, doubtless, likewise with the doctrines, of the Church of England, assembled themselves in the half-ruined palace for religious worship under the ministrations of one who had received no episcopal ordination; and who, some years later, quitted their native country, and became the founders of the parent colony of New England. "And hence it is," remarks an eminent local topographer, who has already been quoted, "that educated and accomplished men from America are perpetually visiting, with feelings of deep filial affection and veneration, the villages of Austerfield and Scrooby, from which sprung the first founders of their country." It may be added that at the opening of a new cathedral in Chicago, in 1867, a column of Scrooby sandstone was exhibited, forming a part of the building. Scrooby is easy of access, having a station on the Great Northern line of railway.

HARWORTH is a considerable village, lying about two miles and a half west-north-west of Scrooby. The church, with the exception of the chancel, which is of comparatively modern origin, is a venerable fabric of considerable antiquity, some portion dating from as far back as the thirteenth century. In repairing the building, in 1828, an arched recess was discovered in the wall, with a cupboard, containing a garland, a

cribbage board, and several other articles of a more sacred character.

BAWTRY, which can boast of a fair inn (the Crown), is a small and not particularly thriving market-town, chiefly in Yorkshire, although nearly surrounded by Nottinghamshire, somewhat pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Idle, and consisting of three streets, the principal of which is spacious and well built. The trade of this place, which has greatly declined since the construction of railways, arises chiefly from inland navigation, and consists in supplying London, Hull, and other places with corn, oak timber, and stone, of which last, that called the Roche Abbey stone, is much esteemed by statuaries and architects. There is a small market held every Thursday, and there are likewise two annual fairs of some repute. The Great Northern line of railway passes here, and has a station at this place. Bawtry stands on the great north road, and it was here that the High Sheriff of Yorkshire anciently met royal personages, who were travelling northward, and conducted them over the border. Hall tells us that when Henry VIII. visited Yorkshire in 1541, after the rebellion, known as the "Pilgrimage of Grace," he was met at Bawtry by "two hundred gentlemen of the county in velvet, and four thousand tall yeomen and servingmen, well horsed, who, on their knees, made a submission by the mouth of Sir Robert Bowes, and presented the King with £900." The church, which is supposed to have been originally erected by Roger de Busli, the founder of the Priory at Blyth, is dedicated to St Nicholas, and has a Norman doorway in the north aisle, but the greater part of the fabric dates from the fourteenth century, and the square pinnaced tower was added as late as

1712. The Hall, now the seat of Charles Lowther, Esq., is a handsome brick mansion, situated at the lower extremity of the town. Morton, now commonly called Martin, a little hamlet, lying about a mile to the north-west of the town, was for very many years the seat and property of the ancient family of Morton, who, continuing in the old religion, caused Bawtry to be regarded as "a dangerous nest of papists," when Mary Queen of Scots was confined at Sheffield Castle. About the year 1390, Robert de Morton founded an hospital, on the outskirts of the town, "for a priest there to be resident, and to keep hospitality for poor people, and to pray for the founder's soul." The hospital still exists, and now consists of two small dwellings for poor widows, but the ancient buildings of this foundation, with the exception of the chapel, have all long ago disappeared. The chapel was for many years in a disgracefully dilapidated condition, and was at one time used as a carpenter's shop, but it was thoroughly restored about forty years ago, through the liberality of the late Henry Marwood Greaves, Esq., and since that time divine service has been duly performed therein by the acting master of the hospital. It is worthy of note that, during the reign of Charles II., the master of this establishment was one John Lake, afterwards Bishop of Chichester, and one of the seven bishops who gave the death-blow to the tyranny of James II., but who, if he resisted oppression, brooked not usurpation, and, like others of his brethren, refusing to swear allegiance to the Prince of Orange, was deprived of his see. Near Morton is the site of a Roman station, where several coins and numerous pieces of pottery have been found. The form of the fort, or encampment, may still be distinctly traced ;

and even when the field is covered with full-grown wheat, an octagonal figure is perceptible from the stems of the corn being invariably considerably shorter there than in other places in the same field.

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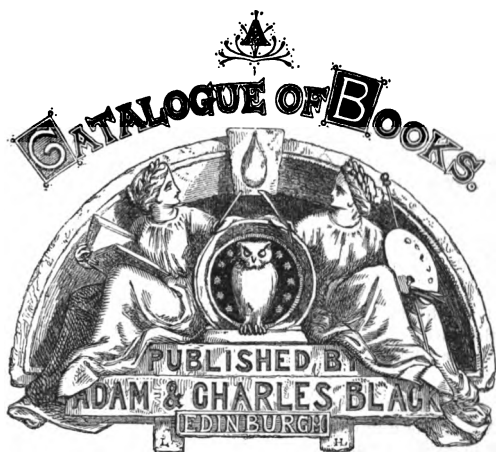
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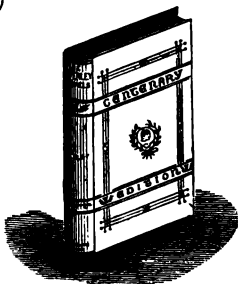
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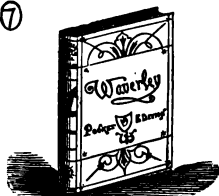
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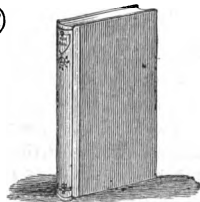
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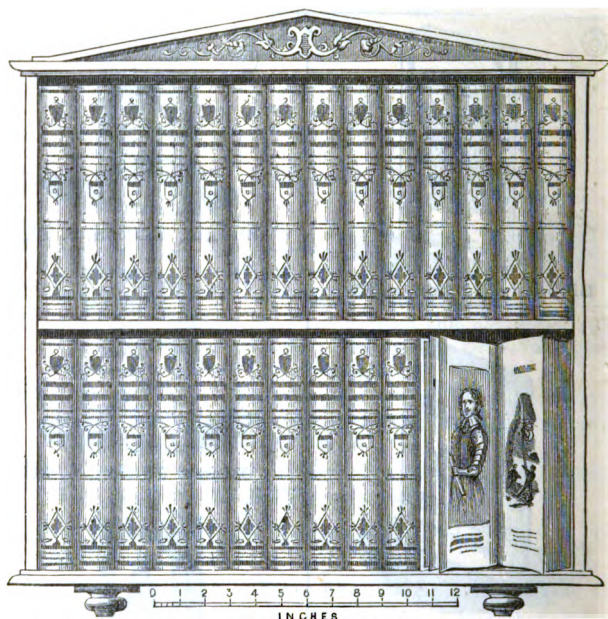


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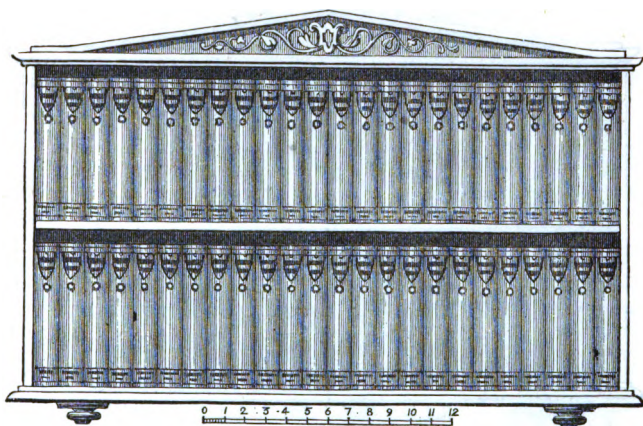


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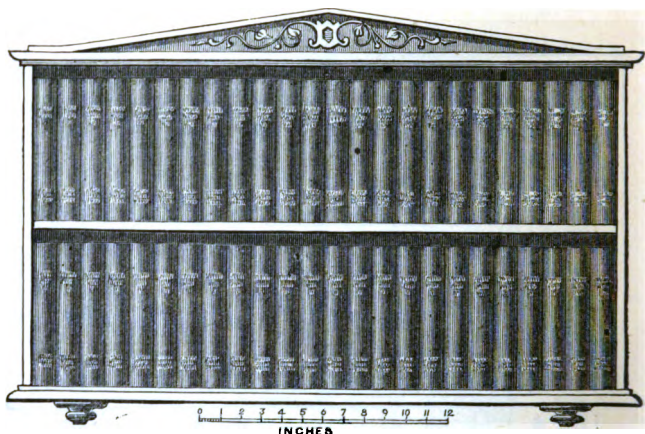
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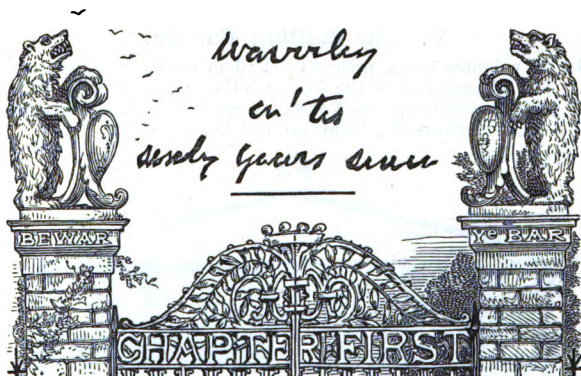
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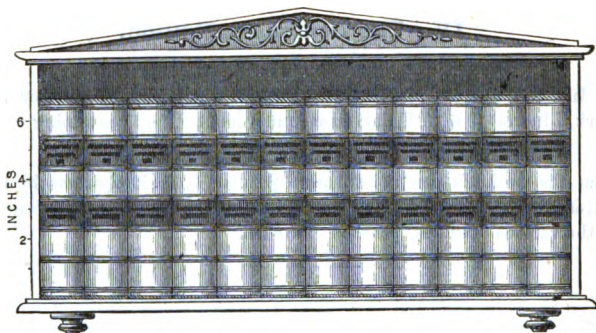
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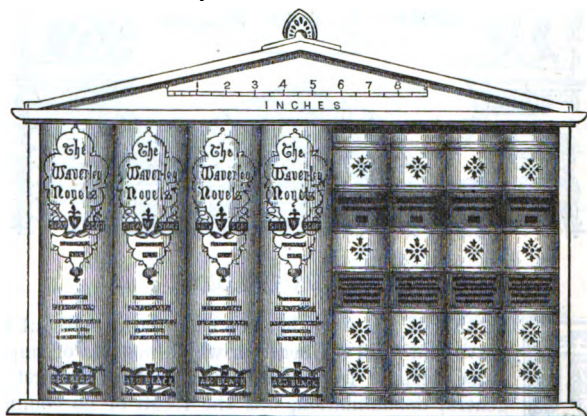
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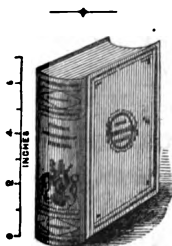
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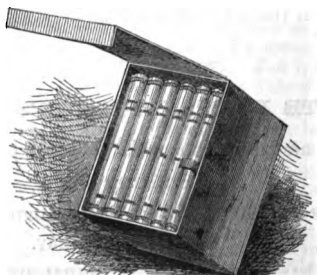
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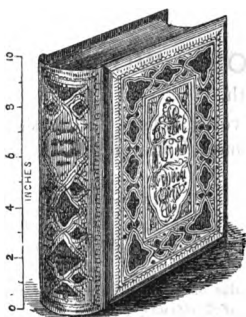
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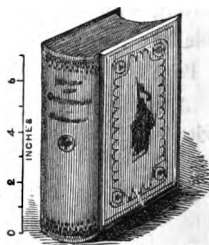
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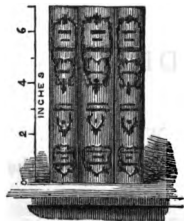
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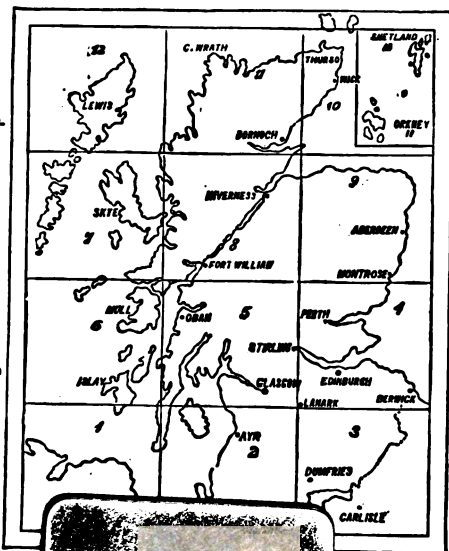
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